



Annual Report

2008

Standing Up Against Unjust Economic
Policies

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Program activities.....	4
Scope	5
Participants/Beneficiaries.....	5
Program implementation.....	5
Internship program	6
Steering/working committee training of trainers materials.....	6
Objective of training kit.....	7
Key elements of training kit.....	8
52 nd session of the UN CSW, Feb. 24 th - March 7 th 2008 (New York).....	8
Regional training workshop (GIH, Kampala) 13 th -17 th April 2008.....	9
Preparation and participation at the UNCTAD XII and Accra HLMAE.....	11
Monitoring Aid effectiveness and Women Economic empowerment	11
Follow up meetings.....	13
Regional meeting on Aid effectiveness.....	14
Economic literacy training – Togo.....	15
The HLFAE 2 nd – 4 th Sept. 2008, Accra Ghana.....	15
Women’s Parallel Forum 30 th Aug, Accra Ghana.....	16
Civil society Parallel Forum 31 st Aug – 1 st Sept. 2008 Accra Ghana.....	17
International Conference on Financing for Dev’t in Doha Qatar	18
Training of trainers in social and Economic transformation.....	19
Macro Economic Policy monitoring (Taxation study).....	20
International workshop on resource mobilization, Malaysia.....	21
Gender and climate change study.....	21
Resource tracking Monitoring & analysis in five districts.....	22
Consultative and planning forum for regional and sub regional Women’s rights networks and organizations, 15 th – 18 th Dec. 2008.....	26
Challenges and opportunities.....	26

Introduction

Although the year 2008 had many challenges, it was also full of exciting activities as AWEAPON engaged more into macroeconomic policy, economic literacy and enhancing the voices of African Women in Bilateral Trade negotiations. The year saw the development of advocacy tools as well as research on the impact of implementation of the Paris Declaration on African women. The discussions on Aid Effectiveness dominated the most part of the year, as AWEAPON took advantage of this to conduct tailored economic literacy trainings in West Africa, East Africa and a Regional meeting in Kampala with a focus on practical Approaches to the Economic Empowerment of African women in light of Aid effectiveness. The year 2008 also ushered in a new area of work on Gender and Climate Change with a case study on Uganda.

The growth witnessed in the programme work, also brought in new demands on organizational management as well as governance with an increasing need for institutional reforms needed to ensure efficiency in the delivery of programmes to all the member countries.

1.1 AWEAPON: who we are

The African Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEAPON) is a Pan- African faith-based non Governmental Organization (NGO) with the regional secretariat legally registered in Uganda. AWEAPON has an active membership of 150 organizations in about 30 countries across Africa. AWEAPON owes its origin to the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) Women's Desk that initiated faith-based consultations on the impact of economic policies on women, leading to the formation of a continental initiative in the name of AWEAPON.

AWEAPON was then launched as a network of Africa women's CSO engaged in women's rights and gender equality, during the 1994 United Nation's NGO regional preparatory conference that was held in Dakar Senegal. It was during the aforesaid conference that various participant organizations expressed commitment towards the formation of AWEAPON. This was particularly in response to a presentation by a group of women drawn from different countries and organizations in Africa. The main thrust of their presentations was on the impact of economic policies

AWEAPON aims to:

1. Be a forum for analysis, discussion and dissemination of information about existing economic policies.
2. Strengthen, through training and research, the capacity especially of rural based African women to lobby and influence policy.
3. Link up groups, networks and individuals to share experiences on the economy.
4. To strengthen women's capacity to develop alternatives to unjust economic policies.
5. To ensure that women's needs and concerns become central in economic decision-making processes of pertinent institutions.

especially structural adjustments policies (SAP's) and women's own analysis of the economic crisis. The founding principle for the network was that women have the fundamental right to shape economic policies that impinge on their livelihoods, and also make decisions on their development.

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, while seeking better livelihood strategies, as these provide a prerequisite for elimination of feminization of poverty and subsequently poverty eradication. Feminization of poverty results from the fact that economic policy analysis is founded on principles that undermine the household economy. Yet the biblical teachings ground

A good economist is a good steward and is therefore one "...who is faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season." Luke 12: 42.

economic analysis within the household economy. Economic analysis should therefore start at the household. This is where the economy is experienced, lived and where benefits or deprivation is most felt. Women, according to most macro and micro economic analyses have been seen to be the most affected when the household economy

is marginalized. There is need therefore to strengthen the voices of the women in policy decision-making as well as build their productive capacities, so as to enable them to benefit from trade and other economic opportunities.

Vision - AWEAPON works towards achieving economic justice

Mission- AWEAPON seeks to strengthen the capacity of women especially at the grass roots and national levels to influence the shape of economic policy.

Programme Activities

In 2008, AWEAPON focused on monitoring Aid effectiveness and capacity building. AWEAPON worked with some of the African women's organizations to organize some of these activities. Under the project activities of 2008, four training workshops were conducted. One Regional meeting took place in Uganda, bringing together participants from various African countries and the second one took place in West Africa for French speaking countries – hosted in Togo in partnership with AWEAPON members in Ghana and Senegal. The second Economic Literacy training took place in Nairobi focusing on Women and Trade in the context of the New Aid Modalities. In total about 105 women benefited from these workshops, thus; West Africa (35); Kenya (30) and Regional meeting (40). Lastly, a resource tracking, monitoring and analysis training workshop was conducted in Soroti district.

In conducting these trainings a critical need to Economic and Social Transformation training arose. One of the key areas of concern for AWEAPON is to enhance economic empowerment of women. However for this to happen, women themselves need a clear mindset on the capacity to engage in viable economic activities. The approach “re-programming our mindsets” was adopted in the Regional meeting with intentions to hold a Training of Trainers course for national trainers. A draft Trainers manual and some economic literacy materials have been developed as a way of spreading the approach to communities at the country level. A regional Training of Trainers workshop is now planned to take place in Lesotho in 2009, to concretize the Training Techniques as well as train national trainers for six – nine African Countries.

1.3 Scope

The programme activities were intended to benefit AWEAPON members in 30 African countries and this was achieved, as the membership was mobilized partly at sub-regional level and also at a regional level.

1.3.1 Participants/Beneficiaries

Regional meeting- Participants were drawn from (Egypt, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, S. Africa, Uganda, Ghana)

West Africa – Participants were drawn from (Ghana, Niger, Togo, Senegal, Niger, Cameroon, Mali, Guinea, Cote D’Ivoire)

Kenya- The meeting was attended by participants from- (Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, Senegal, Mali, Uganda and Kenya)

The working committee held in Cameroon, was attended by participants from Egypt, Tanzania, DRC, Cameroon, Lesotho, Uganda, Kenya

AWEAPON secretariat

Programme implementation

The programme activities have been implemented by AWEAPON secretariat mainly with partnership at country level with AWEAPON members. This is enhancing the AWEAPON’s presence at country level as well as motivating the membership to roll out activities at national level and ensures sustainability.

The African Women’s Economic Policy Network received funding for a three year Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme. The programme is directed towards enabling Africa to realize the potential of women in the development process through a process of social and economic transformation, as well as increased funding for Women’s Empowerment. This intervention benefited from various consultative initiatives in the continent, including the African Women’s Convention 2007 in Nairobi, and country case studies. It also benefited from

experiences gained from various initiatives undertaken by AWEAPON members in various African countries.

This partnership with country focal points and member organizations is seen as a step in the direction to have a more continental inclusive initiative that will also build on best practices, as well as encouragement to the various stakeholders to increase funding towards gender equity and economic empowerment of women. The project is directed towards enabling Africa realize the potential of women in the development process as well as initiate a process of social transformation and ecumenical reflections

Internship Programme

Mentoring of young graduates is vital for knowledge transfer and strengthening the national capacity to sustain such initiatives. AWEAPON therefore deems it important to recruit an intern each year, from the AWEAPON member countries, such that each country will have fielded one intern who will go through the mentoring process and will be expected to return to the home country to support the country focal point, sustain the initiative at national level. One intern from Uganda was hosted by AWEAPON in 2008

Steering/working committee– T.O.T Materials

The meeting developed a draft Training Manual for Economic Empowerment of Women – “changing the mind set’

Rural women’s groups have several needs for enhancing the viability and sustainability of their businesses. Some of these can be met by training, while others require different kinds of support. They need capacity-building support which improves their ability to manage their own businesses. This attitude must be promoted both among members of women’s groups as well as the facilitators. The aim of this training kit is to assist rural women to become individual or group entrepreneurs and managers of cooperative businesses instead of helping set up enterprises *per se*.

Rural women’s groups in Africa cover a wide range of businesses. Some of their training needs are the same, for example those relating to business and accounting concepts. Other training needs, especially those related to technology, differ across sectors. Several of these needs can be met by training members of the women’s groups. As a long-term strategy, training is better than providing services because it enables the women to take charge of their own

businesses. The following needs have been stated by rural women's groups and identified by government staff and trainers:

Enterprise support needs

Training needs

<i>Information building and networking</i>	<i>Principles and practice of cooperation</i>
Marketing support and linkages,	Gender issues in cooperatives and group
Technical linkages	Up gradating of technical skills
Credit linkages	Design, product development and packaging other services costing and pricing of products
Financial management	
Marketing management	
Business management	
Institutional linkages	

Objectives of the training kit

The major objective of this kit is to provide a tool for enhancing the viability and sustainability of rural women's cooperative businesses by helping build their capacities to manage, promote, expand and diversify their businesses. The kit can be used by trainers to help transform the rural women's groups into vibrant cooperative businesses. The aim is to assist:

- Governments and donor agencies to move from being a provider of finance and support, to becoming a facilitator; its staff to be catalysts for promoting entrepreneurship by rural women instead of being hand-holders;
- Rural women's groups to move from dependence to self-reliance and from being small income generating groups to vibrant cooperative businesses.
- The training kit also offers a tool for initiating women's farmer demand- led process for identification and delivery of production support services. It will enable rural women's cooperative groups to understand their businesses better, articulate their needs, be business rather than grant-oriented and improve their businesses. This, in turn, will help improve technical support response to the enterprise support needs of the women's groups and cultivate entrepreneurial promotion attitudes among women's groups.

Key elements of the training kit

1. *Attention to attitudinal change:* The entrepreneurial attitude is the key to starting and sustaining enterprises. This attitude needs to be instilled in both women's group members as well as facilitators.

2. *Attention to gender relations:* This is a neglected subject with a lack of gender disaggregated data on cooperatives, particularly on membership, management and leadership. In general, both women and men are reluctant to challenge the positions of men in top leadership positions. A note and a handout offer guidance on steering discussion on the subject.

3. *Attention to the African cultural context:* The ways in which African women and trainers learn best when issues are taken into account while designing the methodology and training material.

4. *Focus on four rural enterprise sectors:* The sectors to be chosen are those with a greater concentration of women's groups and those selected for the government's support scheme. A regional balance has also been attempted in the selection of the sectors.

52nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, 24th February 2008- 7th March 2008, New York

AWEPON participated at the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women (CSW), held 24th February 2008 - 7th March 2008 in New York. This was an opportunity for AWEPON to network with other CSO regionally and internationally as well as share the outcomes of the Commonwealth meeting of CSOs on "Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights" which also happens to resonate with theme of the CSW 2008, "Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women"., AWEPON also presented the African Women's CSO position paper on donor aid and financing for women's rights and Gender Equality. AWEPON was represented by the Executive Director- Mrs. Eilor Elizabeth and some of the steering committee members who included the Vice Chairperson- Josephine Kamel at the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

This session dealt with issues currently facing the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment: universal commitments to gender equality by the international community versus the relatively limited progress made over the past years in their implementation at the national level. The key elements highlighted during the session were: accelerating implementation of previous commitments at national levels, including the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices; increasing attention to information and data needs; enhancing capacity to mainstream the issue; and identifying key policy initiatives to move implementation forward. Included in these discussions was an examination of the Financing for Development and aid effectiveness processes from a gender equality/women's rights perspective.

Regional Training workshop, 13th- 17th April 2008 at Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala, Uganda

As part of the ongoing work on integrating gender and women's rights into the New Aid architecture as well as trade negotiations and policy. AWEAPON convened a regional meeting with African women on practical approaches to economic empowerment of African women in the context of the new aid modalities and the international trade agenda, held on the 13th- 17th April 2008 at Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala, Uganda.



A cross section of the participants at the Regional Workshop. Middle is the Danish Ambassador and the Minister of Gender-Uganda

These was done with a general objective of creating awareness on the Paris Declaration as well as build the capacity of African women's organizations in engaging with trade policy issues in preparation for the High Level Forum meeting on aid effectiveness and UNCTAD conferences which were held in September 2008 in Accra Ghana.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson, Mrs. Alice Abok, It was officially opened by the Minister of Gender, labor and Social Development, Hon. Syda Bumba and it was closed by the Acting Permanent Secretary of the same Ministry, Mrs. Mpagi Jane.

It was attended by over 40 participants selected from Government officials, representatives from donor agencies and civil society from Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Cameroon, Lesotho Egypt, Burundi, South Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo, AWEAPON members and gender experts as well as a selection of project beneficiaries. The meeting provided insight into project activities at country levels and generated political support from the project countries. The meeting further gave an opportunity for the countries selected to inform the planning process of activities and learned more about the procedures for implementation, M&E as well as financial management.

The meeting identified initiatives and innovative models for the economic empowerment of African women, shared experiences and created awareness on New Aid Modalities and their implications for financing women's economic empowerment, identified measures to be undertaken to promote economic justice, identified indicators for assessing the impact of this programme and launched the three year Women's Economic Empowerment Programme.

This meeting was useful; it introduced all country focal points to the project approach, and agreed on a transparent procedure for selection of project beneficiaries.

Preparation and participation at the UNCTAD XII and Accra High Level meeting on Aid Effectiveness

One participant from Kenya was assigned to represent AWEAPON at the UNCTAD XII meeting. Her participation provided an opportunity to share the outcome of the Trade study conducted by AWEAPON in Kenya and other countries representing on the need for a Gender approaches to Trade and Development.

Monitoring Aid Effectiveness and Women's Economic Empowerment

Country Desk Studies in nine countries.

Preliminary findings have shown that Aid especially under Aid modalities does not provide support to financing for gender equality and women's rights in Africa. Following a regional meeting held in Burundi in 2006 and also the 8th Commonwealth Ministers of Women meeting, in Kampala, it has been observed that unless Aid supports women's rights initiatives and gender equality programmes, then poverty will not be adequately addressed in Africa.

AWEAPON conducted a desk study on Aid effectiveness in nine African countries, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Lesotho, Botswana, DR Congo, Cameroon, Ghana, & Senegal. The study focused on the performance of the PD principles in dictating the flow of aid, achievements on addressing women rights and gender concerns. Under each PD principle, the study focused on;

Ownership

- Acceptance of country specific national women development strategies
- Countries take full control of the implementation of national development strategies to address women rights and gender concerns
- Use of existing structures in the implementation process
- National strategic plans addressing women rights and gender concerns
- Reap-down effect of ownership of strategic plans on women

Alignment

- Donors fund already agreed strategic plans on women rights and gender concerns
- Non-existence of duplication,
- Use of specific country frameworks addressing women rights and gender concerns in the implementation process,
- Strengthening of existing structures of recipient countries to manage aid,
- Use of mutually agreed standards, processes and principles in procurement, assessment, and implementation,
- Sustainability

Harmonization,

- Existing forums or methods of contact between donors and recipient countries
- Ownership of the strategic plans being implemented between donors recipient countries
- Commonly agreed standards of measuring performance and value for money, as well as specifying time zones to be obliged to by both parties
- Each party mutually plays its part
- Harmonized approach to assessment
- Reap-down effect

Managing for results

- Number of policies implemented to address women rights and gender concerns
- Qualitative and quantitative change in its exchange of women visits identified.
- Willingness of donors to commit more resources to solving women concerns in society.
- Remedies put in place to promote women rights.
- Improvement of poverty levels among women.
- Reduction of illiteracy among women
- Reducing marginalization among women in society
- Acceptance of the implemented plans by society

Accountability

- Showing value for money
- Well streamlined channels of reporting
- Quarterly, mid-term or annual progressive reporting
- Transparency through public display of funds committed by implementing channels
- Involvement of donors in implementation
- Involvement of women in implementation process

The study also highlighted the new aid modalities as pointed out below;

Budget support covers financial assistance as a contribution to the country's central budget. Within this category, funds may be nominally accounted for against certain sectors, but there is no formal limitation on where funds may actually be spent. There are basically two types of budget support; that is the General Budget support that supports the whole government budget, and Secondly the Sector budget support which is earmarked for a discrete sector of the government budget.

Sector wide Approach involves donor support to the development of an entire sector in a given country, for instance education, health, agriculture among others. This support is linked to donor joint support for government ministries like in Uganda, Ministry of Health, but it can not include other funding relationships linked to a given sector.

Poverty Reduction Strategy papers were introduced by the World Bank and the IMF in the 1990s as an approach for debt reduction. The PRSPs is intended to outline the country's main problems related to poverty and its strategies to overcome them. PRSPs are meant to be drafted by the recipient countries through a national participatory process in consultation with the World Bank and the IMF.

Basket funding is a joint funding modality by several donors towards a programme, sector or budget support.

Joint Assistance Strategies are intended to make it easier for aid recipient governments to coordinate the activities of individual donors and encourage donor harmonization. The findings also indicated that Aid especially under Aid modalities does not provide support to financing gender equality and women's rights in Africa

Follow up meetings.

As part of the Ecumenical African group, AWEPON presented study findings at the ecumenical meeting organized by the All African Council of Churches (AACC) in Nairobi. The Church Leaders' Consultation on Aid Effectiveness brought together over 70 participants that included the church leaders and ecumenical organizations from Africa. The meeting was convened at the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Ecumenical Centre of the AACC in Nairobi, 21st- 23rd May 2008. This meeting was meant to consolidate and harmonize the position of African religious and ecumenical leaders, together with their counterparts and partners on aid effectiveness, prepare African Church leaders for their participation in the discussion on aid effectiveness before and after the Accra high Level forum and contribute to a final document for the Accra Agenda for Action and enhance networking of African religious and ecumenical organizations in the area of aid and development of a peaceful, prosperous and just Africa. The meeting concluded that as Africans there is need to develop better ways of utilizing local resources. Spearhead the process in the aid effectiveness

Regional Meeting on Aid Effectiveness

AWEPON in collaboration with other women's organizations in Africa organized the African Women's regional consultative meeting on Aid effectiveness and gender equality: Road to Accra in May 26-27 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya.



Consultation on Aid Effectiveness Forum @ AACC Nairobi Kenya 21-24/05/08.

The African women's Consultation provided an opportunity for women to look at the recommendations that were developed at the UN 52nd CSW in New York, looking at what they meant on the ground in practice for African women and how they can fit into the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

The Objectives of the consultation included:

- To create awareness around the PD and identify threats and opportunities posed by the Paris Declaration implementation to advance key development goals such as poverty reduction and the promotion of gender equality and women's rights in Africa
- To disseminate/share the strategies and recommendations on aid effectiveness, women's rights and gender equality developed by the international Consultation meeting in Ottawa, to influence the process towards the HLF3 in Ghana and beyond,
- To build African women's organizations capacity to engage in this highly technical agenda in order to:
 - Meaningfully participate in the Accra meetings;
 - Engage in this agenda longer term;
 - Help develop the women's rights lobby recommendations for Accra; and;
 - Engage African governments at country level.

This meeting was also meant to deliberate in the process leading to the third high level forum on Aid effectiveness in Accra Ghana in September 2008. This meeting therefore was to deliberate on the position of the women on the Paris Declaration and present the outcome to the High level meeting.

Economic literacy Training in Togo

The issues of macro economic policy remain critical for the African women, especially as AWEAPON steps up the Economic Justice campaign in the context of the new Aid Modalities.

The preliminary outcomes of the studies conducted by AWEAPON in 9 African Countries, reveal the need for Women's organizations to take advantage of the key entry points in the implementation of the New aid Modalities and Aid effectiveness in particular, to fund gender equality and women's Rights movements all over Africa.

The Executive Director was the main facilitator at this meeting. The presentation brought out key areas of interface between poverty and women's participation and also draws the link between Aid effectiveness and CEDAW; Beijing Platform and the African charter as well as the MDGs.

The High Level Forum (HLF) meeting on Aid Effectiveness, 2nd - 4th September 2008, Accra, Ghana

Over 1700 participants including more than 100 ministers and heads of agencies from developing and donor countries, emerging economies, UN and multilateral institutions, global funds, foundations, and 80 civil society organizations attended the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness hosted by the Government of Ghana in Accra, 2nd -4th September 2008.

The HLF3 allowed reviewing progress on the Paris Declaration implementation based on evidence collected by the Monitoring Survey applied in 54 countries. In addition, the evaluation of how 8 recipient and 11 donor countries are implementing the Paris principles contributed to identify where more actions are needed to invigorate the aid effectiveness agenda and achieve the targets set for 2011. An overall progress report provided an overview of work on the 56 commitments in the Paris Declaration, and a consolidated analytic overview of major "work streams" intended to take stock, share experience, and disseminate good practices.

The Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), adopted in Accra on September 4, reflects the international commitment to support the reforms needed to accelerate an effective use of development assistance and helps ensure the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. The AAA looks at the result of an extensive process of consultation and negotiations among countries and development partners,

focuses the aid effectiveness agenda on the main technical, institutional, and political challenges to full implementation of the Paris principles.



Women's parallel forum (August 30th 2008) in Accra Ghana

AWEAPON participated in the women's parallel forum for Women's Organizations in Accra Ghana. More than 200 women from all over the world, activists and representatives of regional, national and local networks and organizations working for women's human rights met in Accra on August 30 to discuss the issues of the Paris Declaration. The objectives included:

- To question the North-South inequalities in the Declaration;
- To criticize the absence of gender issues and demand steps towards gender equality to ensure the rights and empowerment of women and to take into account the different impact that aid policies have on men and women;
- To ensure these issues be included in the Civil Society Forum and later on in the High-Level Forum

At the end of the High Level Forum a Women's statement presented by Roselyn Musa of FEMNET- Kenya was issued, which statement brought out key issues

for following by both governments and African Women's Organizations. This statement included the commitment to achieve gender equality and the respect for human rights as cornerstones for development and "policy priority issues as sectors with progress indicators and specific resources allocated in national budgets"; it strongly rejects "the economic policy conditionalities imposed by donors and international financial institutions" and with regards to the issue of ownership, it expresses that this should be democratic and with social participation.

Women also demanded other indicators to "measure development results in a similar way to those used by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) or in other processes such as the Millennium Development Goals". The women's statement was later endorsed by the Civil Society Parallel Forum, AWEAPON inclusive.

Civil Society Parallel Forum (August 31st- 1st September 2008), Accra Ghana

The Civil Society Parallel Forum took place in Accra Ghana between 31st August and September 1, 2008. The round tables and workshops covered the following topics: ownership, harmonization, and management of the impact of development results, alignment, mutual and real responsibility, sectorized approach, and the role of civil society, effective aid in fragile states and conflict situations and changes in the aid architecture.

This forum was attended by over 500 representatives from 330 civil society organizations, global and regional networks and 90 countries, AWEAPON inclusive. AWEAPON analyzed the role of these organizations as key development actors, highlighting the fact that national and international goals advance in aid effectiveness shall not be achieved unless the civil society and its organizations become central actors in the process.

A statement was then presented to the High Level forum meeting that took place in Accra, between 2nd - 4th September 2008.

AWEPON represented at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha Qatar.

AWEPON was represented at the meeting by the Vice Chair person, AWEPON, Ms. Josephine Kamel and the Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Eilor at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha.

The CSO International conference was attended by over 250 civil society organizations and networks all over the world who gathered before the official Review Conference on Financing for Development in Doha Qatar, 25th-27th November 2008 under the theme “investing in people centered development.” This group reviewed the implementation of the Monterrey consensus and as well discussed the pressing challenges and discussed ways for innovative financing.

As part of the Women’s Working group AWEPON was selected to provide an intervention at the round table discussion on “Policy Coherence” and also effectively participated in drafting the Civil Society Position Paper and Women’s position paper.

The outcome of the High Level meeting is especially laudable in that it commits to the promotion of gender equality and women’s economic empowerment as essential to achieving equitable and effective development; takes gender analysis to the wider public management arena; and reaffirms the elimination of gender-based discrimination in all of its forms including in the labor and financial markets as well as, inter alia, in the ownership of assets and property rights.

However, the commitments to gender equality in the document will only be truly meaningful if the systemic issues that underpin poverty, asymmetries and maldistribution of power and resources in the global political economy are decisively addressed. As women who have been fighting for the recognition of our human rights within the United Nations, we continue to believe that an inclusive, rights-informed and accountable multilateralism is more realizable when pursued under the purview of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Decision makers must acknowledge that macroeconomic, systemic, and financial issues are not gender-neutral and thus demand gender-aware policies. Women constitute the majority of people working in flexible and informal sectors with often precarious working conditions. Thus, in times of crisis they struggle harder to maintain their jobs and income levels. At the same time, cuts in public service provision, including education and health, increase the burden of unpaid and

invisible work done mainly by women. With the frequent fluctuations in prices, women are struggling to deal with increased financial stress within households.

We will persist in strengthening the linkages between gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment and the various issues, responses and reforms that may be agreed upon as the global community reviews the financial and monetary systems toward a comprehensive reform of global economic governance.

Training of Trainers in Social and Economic Transformation

AWEAPON conducted a preparatory training of trainers' (T.O.T) workshop in Kampala at the Thomas Institute with Professor Peter Kasenene as the main facilitator. Economics has often been seen as a domain of the experts. AWEAPON however would like to demystify economics as women live by and are affected by economic decisions every day. It is therefore important to create awareness of the macro-economic policy decisions of government, encourage women's involvement in national policy decisions. This will enable them to be more grounded on economic empowerment. Hence Economic literacy packs, training guides and trainers guides have already been developed. In particular a Social and Economic transformation manual and guide have been developed to this effect.



The ED Elizabeth Eilor making a presentation at the preparatory TOT workshop

Preparations for training of trainers on Economic Social transformation are underway in Lesotho scheduled for 2009. This is to be followed by a study tour in South Africa. An organization was contacted in South Africa for this purpose.

Macro – Economic Policy monitoring (taxation Study)

AWEPON undertook a study on taxation to find out its impact on women entrepreneurs in order to create awareness of the implications of taxation on their enterprises.

This study examined the taxation barriers to women entrepreneurs in Uganda. Addressing the issues related to these barriers represents a significant move towards creating an enabling environment for all businesses in Uganda and unlocking the economic potential of Ugandan women. The study makes recommendations for gender-related tax administrative reforms in light of the ongoing initiatives by the Government of Uganda. In addition to providing analysis and recommendations for Ugandans, the study has developed an approach that can be adopted in other countries in regard to the activities of women entrepreneurs in relation to taxation.

Skills building: International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation, Malaysia, 22nd- 25th May 2008

With support from Kairos Canada and AWDF, the Executive Director AWEAPON attended a three day international workshop organized by Resource alliance in Malaysia. The workshop equipped participants with the relevant skills needed for effective and sustainable fundraising and resource mobilization. AWEAPON attendance in this very important workshop contributed to the development of AWEAPON human resource and added a useful skill for resource mobilization management for the organization. This will beef up the resource mobilization management strategies in 2009 for AWEAPON. The training also provided opportunity for information sharing, and alliance building with AWEAPON members from West Africa and Southern Africa.

Gender and Climate change Study.



AWEAPON undertook a study on Gender and Climate Change Adaptations and Policy in Uganda in collaboration with WEDO. This study was intended to highlight the gender implications of climate change in Uganda, the socio-economic impact, the adaptation mechanisms and strategies and also highlighted the extent of government policy and financial interventions. The study recognizes that indeed, climate change poses a threat to important development issues such as water supply, food and security, human health, natural resources and protection against natural hazards. By far, climate change is one of the greatest threats to the social economic welfare of people today. Human activities particularly deforestation (in demand of wood and charcoal) as well as bush burning and encroachment on wetlands (for settlement and agricultural purposes) are posing serious threats to the earth's climate. The accumulation of greenhouse gasses as a result of such activities is changing the Earth's weather patterns, resulting in higher global temperatures, rising sea levels and a shift in the distribution of the world's ecosystems. Consequently people are experiencing natural calamities like floods, droughts, famine due to low production, and accumulation in the number of parasites which causes increased disease prevalence, for example malaria.

Increased and unpredictable rainfall patterns as a result of Global warming in Uganda.

While the World at large is affected, Africa and women in particular are more vulnerable. This is because of a generally uniform climate due to its position in the tropical zone. On other hand, women primarily depend on natural resources (water, land, forests) to meet their family needs.

This study gives a review of climate change and its impacts in Uganda in a gender perspective. It also highlights those factors that make women vulnerable and how they are being affected. In addition, the study also analyses the different strategies women have employed to cop with the climate changes within their own means on one hand. On the other hand, the study analyses the policies that have been put in place to address climate change with a bias in establishing the extent to which they try to address concerns of women. Furthermore, it also analyses how these policies are being aligned with the national development programs (especially PEAP), the existing gaps and then proposes a way forward. This study will soon be published.

Resource tracking, monitoring and analysis in five districts of Uganda: Soroti, Moroto, Katakwi, Gulu and Lira.

African Women Economic Policy Network (AWEPON) received funds from ICCO for a two-year programme on: resource tracking, monitoring and analysis in five districts of Uganda that is Gulu, Moroto, Katakwi, Lira and Soroti. The prime target of the program was to build the capacity of human rights based local communities and CSOs to use Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) and gender approach in promoting pro poor programs. This programme was a result of a consultation workshop organized by AWEPON for Uganda national coalition on Economic Social and Cultural Rights ESCR, in 2006, in Soroti. The key purpose of this training was strengthening of the coalition membership and leading to the identification of organizations to spearhead resource tracking budget analysis and advocacy at the district level. This workshop enabled participants to appreciate ESCR tools in the development of their programmes.



A Cross –section of participants from the Soroti Workshop

AWEPON's work, on this programme, in 2008 was informed by the results of a training workshop on resource tracking, monitoring and analysis, training guidelines on resource tracking, resource tracking tool. During the reporting period consultations were conducted with members of the coalition. Each district appointed one member of the coalition to spearhead the district policy forum work. The following organizations were charged with the task.

Teso Anti Corruption Coalition. (TAC)

Teso Intergrated Development Programme (TIDEP)

Partnership on basic education development and management. (POBEDAM)

Caritas Gulu Archdiocese.

A team of the ESCR coalition members, then, underwent training on resource tracking, monitoring and analysis in Soroti that provided them with the relevant skills for data collection and analysis, and the tool was piloted in Soroti District. One of the key elements of programme on resource tracking, analysis and Monitoring in the five districts of Uganda was to build the capacity of the coalition / Civil Society at district level as well as women's groups to actively participate in tracking resource allocations and utilization of funds under districts from ESCR perspective.



Some of the Coalition Members

The members of the coalition sought the support of facilitators to develop a training manual that could facilitate the capacity building of its members even after the programme.

The training guide that was developed provided insights into local government planning, the various structures and instruments useful for civil society involvement and participation in resource tracking at district level. This guide was tested with the members of the coalition who appreciated the initiative. It has been agreed that this guide should be translated into local languages and simplified in pictorial form (popular version) for use by rural communities in the five selected districts so as to enable increased participation by the grassroots.

The resource tracking guide was developed and the purpose of this was to provide Civil Society members a hands on easy to use tools that would guide them to resource tracking allocation at district level as well as enable them to be able to provide input at district level with officials. This guide was tested in Soroti, where the training workshop took place and later used by district policy forum in generating information and data on resource allocation in the five key selected sectors and these include:

Primary Education.

Primary Health Care.

Rural Water and Sanitation.

Rural Feeder Roads.

Agricultural Extension.

These sectors were selected because they the government priorities in the Poverty Eradication Action Plan, and communities regard them as priorities that will enable the country address poverty and challenges communities and families are facing in the five districts.

Each district policy forum spearheaded by one selected lead organization conducted a resource tracking exercise for a period of two weeks to enable them generate primary data and information on the five selected sectors mentioned above.

This exercise was very involving. AWEAPON secretariat staffs were on the ground together with other facilitators with expertise to guide the resource tracking

process. Part of the resource tracking process involved discussion with various stakeholders at district level as well as community level.

The process of data collection/ resource tracking was conducted by members of coalition themselves with little supervision and technical backstopping from AWEAPON and resource persons.

The five districts were divided into two categories for the ease of supervision and information sharing thus;

Category one: Lira, Gulu.

Category two: Soroti, Katakwi, Moroto.

There was some resistance from some district officials to release information; however with time and use of existing legal instruments, members were able to access key information. However, over all, the exercise has generated a lot of information and data. This will then be validated at district level prior to sharing of the findings at the national level, in 2009.

Key Outputs

- The use of the tool has enabled the participants' coalition members/ CSO members to be able to institutionalize the resource tracking exercise.
- The exercise is strengthening the relationship between local government authorities and the CSOs.
- Appreciation of CSO work in a bid to promote human rights as a prerequisite for poverty eradication.

2.1.13 Consultative and planning forum for regional and sub-regional women's rights networks and organization, 15-18 December 2008

AWEAPON participated at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) consultative and planning forum for African regional and sub regional women's rights networks and organizations that was held on the 15th- 18th December 2008.

AWEPON had the opportunity to meet and discuss with other women's rights networks and organizations on pressing issues on the rights of the women in every aspect of life which included; - the economic rights of African women, international trade agreements, migration and trafficking, climate change, food insecurity among others. This meeting brought together over 40 women from different parts of the continent. The purpose of the meeting was to review current priorities, capacities and gaps in the context of on going engagement with regional and sub regional bodies and linkages with national level action for gender equality, women's rights and empowerment, to support the sharing of knowledge and deepening of technical expertise on key women's rights issues in the context of a changing global and regional policy environment and crises, to increase knowledge on the AU policy and institutional framework, policy processes, linkages with national governments, and identify opportunities for enhanced and effective participation in policy formulation and implementation at regional and sub regional levels and to agree on priority areas for women's advocacy and roles of different stakeholders.

At the end of the workshop, women were given the opportunity to learn French, a learning Kit was given to the women who participated. UNIFEM then promised to continue in the same spirit and a bilingual group of women. This was seen as an easy way to communicate in the future. Women were also equipped with knowledge on the AU and AU policy formulation processes, implementation and monitoring, including implementation and monitoring at the sub regional and national levels, leading to a transformation in the lives of women on the ground.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

During the period January- July 2008 AWEPON experienced some administrative challenges caused by on going institutional reforms. Critical in this case is the fact that a decision was taken by the Steering Committee Members to recruit new technical staff and also some reforms in the governance of the institution. This was a critical moment in the implementation of programmes as a lot of time was lost because the secretariat had to slow down the implementation of all programmes.

It is important however to note that this did not affect the overarching support and active participation of the members of the coalition, who put aside their individual organization's work to ensure that progress is made in the implementation AWEPON programmes.

The ESCR Coalition members who were trained with skills and knowledge on the above mentioned programme have therein been transferred or have been offered other jobs, making it difficult for the continuous partnership in implementing the programme.

The value of the dollar has gone down – for example the costs of the individual activities were sometimes higher than planned. Also the cost of buying a car was found much higher than planned. Hence AWEAPON resorted to hiring transport for field work during the implementation. This expenditure (initially) planned for purchase of a car will be reviewed after finalization of key project activities and will then be presented to ICCO for further decision making on the use of funds. The programme activities are first priority.

List of acronyms

AWEPON-	African Women's Economic Policy Network
PRSP-	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
AAA-	Accra Agenda for Action
MDGs-	Millennium Development Goals
HLF-	High Level Forum
CEDAW-	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
UNCTAD-	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNITED-	United Nations Audited fund for Women
CSO-	Civil Society Organizations
ESCR-	Economic Social and Cultural Rights
POBEDAM-	Partnership on Basic Education Development and Management
TIDEP-	Teso Integrated Development Program
TAC-	Teso Anti corruption Coalition
PEAP-	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
WEDO-	Women Economic Development Organisation
AWDF-	African Women's Development Fund