



NETWORK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GHANA (NETRIGHT)

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S AGENCY TO DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY, EQUITY & TRANSPERANCY FROM INDUSTRY ACTORS FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

EVALUATION MEETING



Date: Friday, August 22, 2014

Venue: UDS Guest House, Accra

Sponsor:  **STAR-Ghana**
Strengthening Transparency, Accountability
and Responsiveness in Ghana



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A. Introduction

In February 2013, Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) in partnership with FIDA Ghana, WiLDAF Ghana and ABANTU for Development with support from Star Ghana undertook a project titled '*Women's Agency Strengthened to Demand Accountability, Equity and Transparency from Industry Actors for Improved Livelihoods*'. This project sought to improve gender sensitive legislative and institutional frameworks in the oil and gas industry and strengthen the capacity of women and socially excluded groups on oil and gas issues to influence policies and programmes to protect their interest. The project was implemented at the national and district levels; with a focus on the Jomoro and Ellembele districts in the Western Region. The project formally ends on August 31, 2014 and this Evaluation Meeting forms part of activities outlined for the final phase the project and.

A total number of twenty-one (21) participants made up of 16 women and 5 men comprising project partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries and the media attended the meeting (see Annex 1 for participants list).

B. Welcome Address

The Project Coordinator and Senior Program Officer of NETRIGHT, Mrs. Patricia Blankson Akakpo welcomed participants and expressed appreciation to the project partners for their collaboration since the inception of the Oil and Gas Project. She was also grateful for to participants for making time to attend the meeting. She briefly gave a brief background to the project as follows:

- The Project was a collaboration among four organizations namely; NETRIGHT, ABANTU for Development, FIDA Ghana and WiLDAF Ghana and at two levels; national and district levels
- NETRIGHT and WiLDAF Ghana were in charge of the district engagement at Jomoro and Ellembele districts while ABANTU and FIDA Ghana were responsible for national level interventions
- At the national level, the project sought to ensure the mainstreaming of gender into oil and gas sector policy and regulatory frameworks to protect the interests of women and other socially excluded groups in oil fringe communities in Ghana. While, at the district level, the project ensure that the capacity of women and socially excluded groups on oil and gas and local governance processes are enhanced in the Jomoro and Ellembele Districts to protect their interests
- There have been series of activities under the project and this Evaluation Meeting will assess progress made, challenges encountered and strategize on the way forward to sustain gains made

The Facilitator, Mrs. Hamida Harrison who is the Convenor of the Women's Manifesto Coalition (WMC) lauded the Project especially for its focus on the social implications of the Oil and Gas industry on certain marginalized groups like women and persons with disability. She also noted that:

- The oil and gas discovery “took the citizenry by surprise” therefore the need for interventions to access the social implications on the livelihoods of especially women
- It is imperative to consider the participation of women in the oil and gas processes, and/or the implications of their participation or otherwise

C. Purpose of Evaluation Meeting

The main objective of the meeting was to evaluate the processes from inception of the Oil and Gas Project, planned activities, achievements, challenges and prospects for sustainability. The specific objective was to:

- To assess the project and strategize on how to sustain gains made and the way forward.

D. Overview of Project by NETRIGHT

Ms. Amba Duaa Forson-Mensah (Project Staff) gave a brief overview of the project on behalf of the partners. A summary of her presentation was as follows (see Annex for presentation):

a. Introduction to the Project: The project was informed by

- NETRIGHT’s initial research in 2008 revealed that the oil and gas industry could aggravate existing gender imbalances without gender sensitive frameworks and interventions.
- The need to include social and gender concerns in the oil and gas process which tends to only focus on the scientific, technical and economic issues
- The need for inclusiveness towards a successful human development

NETRIGHT collaborated with ABANTU for Development, WiLDAF Ghana and FIDA Ghana to undertake the project at two levels; the national and district level.

b. Objectives of the project:

- Mainstreaming gender into oil and gas sector policy and regulatory frameworks to protect the interests of women and other socially excluded groups in oil fringe communities in Ghana at the national level
- Enhancing the capacity of women and socially excluded groups on oil and gas and local governance processes to demand the inclusion of gender concerns in the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) of the Jomoro and Ellembelle Districts to protect their interests

c. Specific Activities

- Review of the Exploration Bill and Petroleum Revenue Management Act
- Review of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) manuals of Tullow Oil Ghana and Kosmos Energy
- Capacity Building Workshops
- Community and Field Surveys
- Gender Analysis of the Medium Term Development Plan of Jomoro
- District Level Stakeholders' Engagements / District Level commitments
- Media Programs /Engagements
- Submissions and Parliamentary Engagements (Parliamentary Select Committee on Mines and Energy and Ministry of Finance)
- Launch of Knowledge products
- Stakeholders Engagements
- Formation of Advocacy Platforms; Gender Advocacy Platform (GAP) in Jomoro and Women's Accountability Committee (WACOM) in Ellembelle

d. Identified Gender Gaps

- **Oil and Gas Legal Frameworks**
 - Absence of equal representation of women and men on decision making Boards and bodies
 - Unequal gender representation in recruitment and appointment
 - Absence of gender sensitive workplace policies
 - Lack of sex-disaggregated Data
 - Delays in payment of royalties
 - No specific gender provisions in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment reviewed
- **Community Concerns**
 - Women traders suffer injustices at borders where they have to trade currently due to the Oil buzz
 - Non-payment or delays in paying compensations to farmers and other property owners
 - Loss of livelihoods of fishermen and fishmongers
 - High cost of living

e. Achievements and the Way Forward

- Dissemination of identified gender gaps with relevant stakeholders
- Publication of two Knowledge products to serve as reference tools for future amendments
- Formation of GAP & WACOM

As the way forward Ms. Forson-Mensah emphasized the need to ensure that, the successes of the project is sustained through the support of all stakeholders at the district and national level.

Personal Experiences of Beneficiaries and Stakeholders

- Difficulties in assessing scholarship opportunities for persons with disability (PWDs)
- Persons with Disability now bear the brunt of the higher standard of living in the area
- Lack of effective and “*meaningful participation*” of PWDs in District Assembly processes. The Ellembele District Assembly has a PWD representative on the Assembly
- Delays in disbursing funds from the Disability Fund
- NETRIGHT was applauded for the initiative in the Jomoro District as it has been an “*eye opener*” for women
- The need for institutionalizing friendly architectural designs for PWDs
- The tendency of farming and trading activities (where women are mostly found) becoming “*redundant*” due to the current concentration on oil and gas in the Region
- The ‘oil find’ has propelled many youth to leave the district thus disintegrating the family structure
- The gender assessment of the Medium Term Development Plan offered an insight into how to “*gather sex-disaggregated data*” to ensure a gender sensitive intervention
- The need for a solid collaboration with the District Assembly to ensure openness and accountability and a special fund for oil fringe communities



A GAP member sharing her experience

- Gender tends to be generally neglected in development interventions and since every aspect of our life is political, it is imperative for such measures
- Partners were applauded for the extensive work done both at the districts and national level and urged to sustain the momentum in holding duty bearers accountable
- The need to ensure a friendly environment for especially PWDs
- The need for a social intervention to support identified needy and marginalized groups
- NETRIGHT to liaise with Ghana Federation of the Disabled to initiate support for PWDs in the Ellembele District
- The need to have certain administrative directives legislated to enforce and compel adherence

E. Assessment of Project Results

Partners were expected to offer their assessment of results in terms of

- Measuring objectives against deliverables
- How the objectives achieved
- The achievements
- The beneficiaries of activities
- What were the challenges and how was it addressed?
- What were the lessons learned?
- What are the success stories?

Specific objectives and activities of the project were to:

- Assess the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) manuals of Tullow Oil Ghana and Kosmos Energy
- Develop gender mainstreaming guidelines
- Engage policy makers and relevant stakeholders
- Conduct research to identify gaps in existing legal frameworks
- Develop and publish knowledge products from research and assessment
- Disseminate findings with media and identified stakeholders
- Build capacity and training of identifiable women leaders, traditional authorities and women in general
- Community Survey and gender assessment of the Medium Term Development Plan of the Jomoro District

These objectives were achieved through:

- The formation of advocacy platforms in Jomoro and Ellembelle districts
- Submission of petitions and memoranda to the District Assembly by the advocacy platforms
- Engagement with identified stakeholders

- Local sensitizations
- Validation of research findings in Accra and Takoradi
- Desktop research of ESIA and existing legal frameworks
- Publication of two knowledge products
- Radio programs and media engagements

Key achievements of the Project include:

- The formation of the two advocacy platforms; GAP and WACOM in Jomoro and Ellembele districts respectively
- The creation of awareness and the awakening of especially the women to be interested in certain development interventions/processes in the district
- Publication of two knowledge products
- Effective engagement and collaboration of the District Assembly and other key actors
- The interest of two women to contest for position in the up-coming District Assembly elections in Jomoro District
- Commitment from the districts to consider/incorporate issues from the submissions
- The lasting relationship established with especially the media, District Assemblies and traditional authorities
- Compilation of project outcomes including overview for publication

The beneficiaries of the project had been women and women groups; PWDs, media, District Assemblies, state and non-state actors including members of parliament, Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), traditional authorities and other identifiable groups.

Challenges

- Generally the timeframe for the project was short per the initial proposal for a three-year project
- Accessing information from especially Tullow Oil Ghana and Kosmos Energy

companies

- Engaging the top ranking personalities of identified groups and companies
- Difficulty in engaging parliamentarians at the initial stages
- Identifying key persons for trainings and capacity building at initial community entry
- Poor and inaccessible roads in the districts
- Absence of a natural resource section in the District Assembly
- Language barrier at the district level
- Mobilizing advocacy platform members due to communication barriers and long distance
- STAR Ghana was not flexible in its requirements
- Short-term reporting deadlines - 3 months reporting timelines too short for results achievement - biannual reporting better

How were these challenges addressed?

- The use of desktop research
- Follow up community entries with previous beneficiaries
- The use of interpreters during sessions; even though it dragged sessions
- Working around budget and time to ensure value for money

Lessons Learnt

- Usefulness of a local contact person at the district to coordinate activities
- The importance of engaging relevant stakeholders from the initial process of the project
- It was a crucial strategy to collaborate with the District Assembly, media and traditional authority (at the district level). It yielded acceptance and ownership of the processes
- The use of the local/native language of the people is helpful
- Sharing and learning from stakeholders become critical and effective
- The need for networking, alliance building and collaboration to effect positive change

Success Stories

- Better understanding of issues around the Oil and Gas sector which has fostered collective action from and by the beneficiaries (women)
- Formation of smaller advocacy platforms and a susu scheme by women in the district
- More women interested in engaging the District Assembly and demanding for accountability



A participant from Jomoro Assembly District sharing a success story

Discussions

- The need for a gender audit in especially Kosmos Energy and Tullow Oil Ghana companies
- The difficulties in assessing and engaging with the two oil companies is indicative of a larger issue of transparency with multi-nationals in Ghana
- Partners were lauded for using capacity building and trainings to enhance the capacity of the people to demand accountability
- The need to use the knowledge products for further engagements
- Assessing the existing legal frameworks was lauded

F. Assessment of Cross-cutting Issues

Partners were expected to assess achieved results in relation to the extent to which project activities have contributed to:

- gender equality and social inclusion
 - value for money
 - knowledge management
 - media management
 - stakeholder collaboration
- Project activities focused on the inclusion of women, men and other marginalized groups from the onset. The inclusion of men in a women's

empowerment project is indicative of the inclusiveness nature of the project. Ensuring grassroots participation at the district level, despite barriers like bad roads and language barriers also added to this inclusiveness. Also as the major focus of the Project, it sought to strengthen women's agency to demand accountability, equity and transparency from local actors; thus its immense contribution to gender equality and social inclusion.

- Implemented project activities yielded value for the money spent; in some cases more value
- Publication of the knowledge products is one of the means partners are managing the knowledge from the project.
- Petitions, memoranda and assessments done are also forms to manage the knowledge from the project
- Media engagement has been of best quality and partners have an established relationship with certain media houses at the national and district level
- Except for the difficulties in engaging and/or collaborating with the Oil companies, stakeholder engagement has been good with some lasting relations established for future engagements and collaborations.

G. Process Assessment

All outlined activities of the project were completed in addition to the reviewed activities in the last quarter.

H. Development of Sustainability Plan for GAP and WACOM (see Annex 2)

I. Recommendations and Next Steps

- Partners to liaise with advocacy platforms in the districts to monitor the District Assemblies and ensure submitted concerns are addressed
- Simplify knowledge products and the technicalities of the Oil and Gas frameworks for easy usage especially by the people in the districts
- Identify and tackle specific concerns raised for an intensive advocacy
- Advocate for the legislation and/or documentation of identified best practices in the Oil and Gas industry at the national level
- Disseminate widely the knowledge products produced
- Submit articles on knowledge products to media houses frequently
- The need for a collective voice to demand for a meaningful participation of women in the Oil and Gas industry
- Collaborate with the Civil Society Platform for Oil and Gas, Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) and/or the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) to engage with the Oil companies
- Contact a Ghanaian working in Tullow Oil International through Ekuia Ansah-Eshon
- Identify and share information on project with key stakeholders at the national, regional and global level
- Submit findings and concerns to Tullow Oil Ghana and Kosmos Energy

- The need to have a sustainability plan to ensure continuity of the successes

Partners recommended that STAR-Ghana:

- Offers support in liaising with some identified organizations to engage with especially Tullow Oil Ghana and Kosmos Energy
- Supports the Sustainability Plan for the project

J. Wrap Up and Closing

The Chairperson, Mrs. Hamida Harrison, thanked participants at the meeting for their fruitful contributions during the meeting. She urged partners to continue to identify new ways to ensure continuity and engagements.



Cross-section of participants during the meeting

Annex 1: Action Items

Number	Item	Person Responsible	Deadline
1.	Identify and share project information with relevant stakeholders	Project Partners	ASAP
2.	Send contact details of a contact in Tullow Oil Company	Ekua Ansah-Eshon	ASAP
3.	Collaborate with ISODEC and/or other organisations to engage with the Oil companies	NETRIGHT	ASAP
4.	Approach STAR-Ghana to support Sustainability workplan	Project Partners	ASAP