



## STEWARDWOMEN



## ANNUAL REPORT-2014

[info@stewardwomen.org](mailto:info@stewardwomen.org) or [stewardwomen@gmail.com](mailto:stewardwomen@gmail.com)

[www.stewardwomen.org](http://www.stewardwomen.org)

## **Message from the Executive Director;**

**Dear colleagues, friends and supporters,**

The constitution of STEWARDWOMEN provides in Article 6.2 (ii) that the Governing Council, which is the general assembly of the organization, shall meet once in a year and during this meeting, the board of directors shall present the annual report.

In relation to this provision, STEWARDWOMEN annually prepares a report which is tabled before the governing council for analysis which gives us an opportunity to appreciate the far that we have come as a team with a common mission.

In this report, brief highlights are given on the activities that have been running and their achievements, workshops and trainings that were organised and also attended, the update on the number of staff recruited and those that left the organization, the challenges and plans for the future, the list is long.

In a special way, I would like to acknowledge all who have been mentioned in this report for their generous and kind contributions in different ways towards the achievement of 2014 plans and beyond.

Please allow me to share with STEWARDWOMEN Annual Report 2014 as the secretary to the board of directors. As our 2009-2014 strategic plan comes to an end, together with you, we are looking forward to a progressive 2015-2017 strategic plan so as to push our mission to another level.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Inyakua Esther Irama**

**Executive Director/STEWARDWOMEN**

## **About STEWARDWOMEN;**

STEWARDWOMEN (formerly STEWARD Organization) is a women organization founded in March 2009 by some South Sudanese women lawyers and their friends, and managed by women. It was registered with South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation commission of Magwi county in Eastern Equatoria state in 2009, as a community based, not-for-profit non-governmental organization; and in June 2014 with the Ministry of Justice. It was established to address the problems of sexual and gender based violence, harmful customs on women and girls, child labor and trafficking, community insecurity and conflicts, poor governance and illiteracy in South Sudan. The organization is managed by a Governing Council and a Board of Directors.

## **STEWARDWOMEN Mission;**

To develop, shape and empower South Sudanese women to advocate for policies that foster equal economic opportunity, and secure human rights for women and children”.

## **STEWARDWOMEN Vision;**

A South Sudanese society free from the violations of the human rights of women and children

## **STEWARDWOMEN Team;**

Inyakua Esther Irama, Azuruku Henry Mojule, Josephine Chandiru Drama, Muya Joyce Jaffer, Topista Gassi Richard, Izaru James Anthony, Tazita Proscovia Lomude, Chandia Joyce Alison, Deng John Agar, Awut Catherine Mabior.

## **Cover Photo;**

The upper photo on the left shows Joseph Deng of Pact South Sudan and staff of STEWARDWOMEN during the public rally in Paliang Payam, Tonj East County, Warrap State, South Sudan

The lower photos on the left and right show the project officer and paralegal addressing participants during the awareness campaign in Paliang.

The upper photo on the right shows a group of paralegals mobilizing the community in Romich trading center for the community awareness campaigns in Romich.

## **2014 Highlights of Activities and Achievements**

### **ICE materials produced;**

STEARWARDWOMEN produced 8 banners in 2014; 1 for the international women's day celebrations in Pageri Payam in Magwi County, 2 for the public awareness campaigns in Romich and Paliang Payams in Tonj East County, 3 for the national dialogue on the acceleration of Maputo protocol in Juba county and 2 wall banners one in Nimule office and another in Juba office. We also designed and printed 1000 fliers with information on the need for South Sudan to ratify Maputo protocol, 700 brochures to popularise the work STEARWARDWOMEN is doing, 100 posters with information on the importance of educating a girl-child, 42 paralegal hand books, 30 reflective jackets to be used by community paralegals as uniforms in Tonj East county, 200 copies of Maputo protocol printed for distribution and reference during the national dialogue in Juba and 50 t-shirts for the international women's day celebrations. All these materials are meant to inform, communicate and educate the people on issues related to human rights, justice, security and gender issues.

### **STEARWARDWOMEN project inception meetings organised;**

As is our culture, STEARWARDWOMEN begins its activities by conducting project inception meetings. Hence June 2014, we held a joint stake holders' inception workshop in Multi-Purpose Training Hall (DOT) in Nimule Payam under the WCH project. This meeting was attended by Nimule town officials, women, religious and youth leaders, Payam authorities, teachers, CSOs and STEARWARD board members. The purpose of the meeting was to create awareness on the "emergency child protection project"

activities to be implemented in Melijo IDP centre. 22 participants attended the project inception meeting, 7 were female and 15 were male.

STEARAWOMEN further conducted a project awareness meeting in Melijo IDP camps. This meeting was attended by 23 IDP community leaders and members of the IDP community. There were 5 female and 18 male. The purpose was to Identify IDP community volunteers to work on the War Child Holland project. Six IDP volunteers were identified to act as the resourceful persons in the community.

We also held another joint stakeholders' project inception workshop in Romich which brought together the community and the law enforcers including the magistrates, youth leaders, chiefs, women leaders, religious leaders and representatives from the local government. This meeting was attended by 17 members.

STEARAWOMEN also held a consultative meeting with the Nimule community leaders/ institutions to secure existing ground for recreational and other structural activities as a playing ground for children. This meeting was attended by 17 members from the IDP community and the host community. 7 of the members were female and 10 male.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014, STEARAWOMEN hosted a one day joint stake holder's project inception meeting in Romich Payam that was attended by 25 people among those included the Executive Director, payam leaders, traditional chiefs, religious and women leaders, youth leaders and members of the peace committee. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the stakeholders on the upcoming project in their community and increase the level of community awareness on the project and also solicit their support for the successful implementation of the project. It also helped to sensitize the community leaders on their role in the project.

In December 2014, STEARAWOMEN also held a joint stakeholders project inception meeting in Nimule office to Identify 15 GBV survivors for the training in bakery and management of savings and loan associations. The meeting brought together 9 participants of which 6 were female and 3 were male. The meeting did not identify the

beneficiaries since the security situation in the country had made most people to flee Nimule to the neighbouring Uganda.

## **STEARAWOMEN trainings conducted;**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2014, STEARAWOMEN conducted refresher training for 9 social mobilisers/human rights activists of which 6 were female and 3 were male. These activists were formed and trained on the human rights of women and girls in August 2012. The refresher training in 2014 was a follow-up training. The topics covered during the refresher training included human rights based on both local and international legal principles; harmful customs and traditions which undermine the dignity and status of women; the right to marry; right to education; gender based violence as a human rights violation and protection of women and girls particularly by host communities and IDP leaders among others.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014, STEARAWOMEN conducted training of men and women on child rights and protection. This training took place in Melijo IDP camp in Nimule Payam. The training was attended by 41 participants of which 39 were female and 12 were male. We also gave the same training to 67 participants in Baptist church of which 58 were female were male.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014, STEARAWOMEN trained focal persons on child protection. These focal persons included teachers and community leaders. The training was attended by 10 people of which 7 were female and 3 were male. The training took place in Baptist church in Malakia, Nimule Payam.

Between 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> September 2014, STEARAWOMEN trained community paralegals in Romich and Paliang Payams in Tonj Eats County, Warrap State with financial support from Pact in South Sudan. Participants for the training were drawn from the police, judiciary, traditional chiefs, payam leaders, youth leaders, women leaders, religious leaders, and paralegals. 43 participants attended the training; 22 from Romich and 21 from Paliang. Majority of the training participants were the members of the peace committees who attended the training on selected statutory laws and alternative dispute

resolution mechanisms in the first phase of the project. The purpose of the training was to equip the paralegal trainees with the necessary knowledge and skills needed by community paralegals.

From 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2015, STEWARDWOMEN in partnership with Equality Now/Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) trained 28 lawyers, judges and human rights defenders from South Sudan in Nairobi, Kenya. The training was on the use of regional and international instruments during litigation. In other words, how can we make use of the Maputo protocol to support cases brought before courts.

### **Follow- up meetings organised;**

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014, STEWARDWOMEN conducted follow-up meeting among the community paralegals (CPLs) and local justice structures in Romich. There were a total of 32 participants which comprised of CPLs, local justice structures, the police, the army, local government administrators, teachers, religious leaders, women leaders, youths and the local traditional chiefs among whom were 23 male and 9 female. The purpose of the meeting was to address the challenges faced in providing justice to the community and provide the community paralegals with knowledge and skills on how to solve disputes within the community.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, STEWARDWOMEN conducted another follow-up meeting in Paliang. A total of 30 participants comprising of CPLs, local justice structures, the police, the army, local government administrators, teachers, religious leaders, women leaders, youths and the local traditional chiefs were in attendance. There were 22 males and 8 female participants.

### **STEWARDWOMEN dialogues held;**

STEWARDWOMEN conducted three dialogues in Mugali on child protection and in Pageri and Nimule on early marriage. One of the key messages passed during the Mugali dialogue was children at adolescent age need to be guided by parents and guardians on changes that come with adolescent period so that they will learn to cope



with those changes. This will also make them know about their body. On the other hand the early marriage discussions in Pageri and Nimule focused on high levels of school dropout particularly among girls. The aim of the dialogue was to change the attitude of the people on the importance of girl child education. There were 136 participants 90 were male and 46 female during the dialogue in River Bank P/S at Nimule.



The 1<sup>st</sup> picture is the dialogue on high levels of school drop out facilitated by the social mobiliser. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> picture, Thon David of River Bank P/S shaking hands with STEWARD-ORG's Women Protection Officer. Thon said cultural beliefs have contributed a lot in early forced marriage among the dinka community. He was also voted by the pupils as the best participant during the dialogue for his active involvement in the discussion.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014, STEWARDWOMEN held community dialogue in Opar Boma in Pageri Payam. The dialogue focused on sensitizing the community on the rights of women and girls.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014, STEWARDWOMEN held a community dialogue on the challenges faced in enforcement of law and order. The dialogue was attended by a total of 31 participants both males (22) and females (6) and 3 army men. The participants consisted of youths, police officers, the army, teachers, Payam administrators, magistrates, peace committee and local chiefs.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, STEWARDWOMEN held a national dialogue at Juba Grand hotel as a way of engaging citizens and the government to accelerate the ratification of the Maputo Protocol by South Sudan. The dialogue was attended by 35 participants of which 4 were male and 31 were female attracting representatives from



the national Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Constitutional Review Commission, Ministry of Justice, Members of parliament, law firms and CSOs.

## **STEARAWOMEN psychosocial and legal support;**

We provided psychosocial support and legal counselling to victims of GBV. We also registered, successfully mediated and made follow-ups of cases we registered. Below is a table showing a summary of the above information.

| <b>Category</b>    | <b>Registered</b> | <b>Mediated</b> | <b>Counselled</b> | <b>Pending</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Child neglect      | 6                 | 6               | 0                 | 0              |
| Domestic violence  | 1                 | 1               | 0                 | 0              |
| Wife desertion     | 8                 | 4               | 4                 | 0              |
| Denial of property | 7                 | 2               | 0                 | 5              |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>22</b>         | <b>15</b>       | <b>4</b>          | <b>5</b>       |

## **Additionally,**

STEARAWOMEN linked two families in Mugali Payam headed by mentally ill women to Fulla life line and cornerstone children's home. These families were identified during a dialogue in Avumadrici Boma in Mugali Payam on the 14<sup>th</sup>-3-2014. On 17<sup>th</sup>/4/2014 the two families were assessed and supported with basic needs like food and clothing. Preparations are being made to admit the children in the orphanage.

## **STEARAWOMEN monitoring visits done;**

In October and November 2014, STEWARDWOMEN participated in monitoring local courts and police detention centres in Romich and Paliang Payams in Tonj East County, Warrap State. During this time, 30 detainees were visited in the police detention centres and 50 cases were found to have been registered by the family courts in Romich and Paliang Payams.

## **Home visits;**

STEWARDWOMEN also visited several women groups in Nimule and educated these women on their rights. The women groups visited included Tece, Yuwe, Amaolualu, Tandrupasi and Kokura women groups. Most of these women are market vendors who sell food items to pay back loans taken from the groups. They also engage in other economic activities such as quarrying, animal rearing and poultry among others. Their major challenges are lack of entrepreneurial skills to do businesses, domestic violence and theft of their income.

Two families were also visited during home visits to follow-up on the cases handled during family mediation meetings. This was to monitor the response of the perpetrators.

## **STEWARDWOMEN local justice structures established;**

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014, STEWARDWOMEN established 2 family courts in Romich and Paliang payams to handle cases of GBV reported to them; we also established 2 police GBV desks in those two Payams and a legal aid clinic. The legal aid clinic is to provide legal aid services to GBV survivors. This was all done with generous support from Pact in South Sudan.

## **Awareness /advocacy campaigns held;**

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014, a public rally and awareness campaign on issues of non-violence, human rights, justice and gender was conducted by STEWARDWOMEN in Paliang Payam. The campaign targeted police, chiefs, magistrates, elders, teachers, women, children, youth, religious leaders, Payam administrators, youth leaders, women leaders and the community at large. About 200 community members turned up for the campaign

as the community leaders in their various offices explained their various roles in resolving community disputes. These enlightened the community on the roles of various stakeholders. The public rally also focused on the rights of women and children and the roles and responsibility of men in the society.

Two radio talk shows were conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> /Jan/2014 and 7<sup>th</sup>/3/2014 at Borongole FM. The talk shows placed emphasis on consequences of the on-going armed violence in South Sudan on women and girls, protection needs of women and girls (IDPs and hosts) during displacement, how the host community in collaboration with the IDP leaders can protect women and girls? and dangers of early forced marriage. There were numerous responses from communities that have listenership to Borongole FM. This created awareness on women protection issues.

Steward conducted project awareness meeting with Melijo IDP camps. This meeting was attended by 23 IDP community leaders and members of the IDP community of which 3 were female and 18 male.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, STEWARDWOMEN held a community awareness campaign on justice services and human rights issues in Paliang Payam. The activity brought together 220 people (100 males and 120 females. The event was officially opened by the town council chairperson. The market authority was involved as well as local leaders. The purpose of this gathering was to inform the community on the availability of alternative justice services in the area like the CPLs and the Legal Aid

Clinic, create awareness the rights of women and children in the community, respect for and maintenance of the law etc.

## **STEWARDWOMEN networking activities;**

In January 2014, STEWARDWOMEN attended a meeting of CSOs coming together for sustainable peace which took place in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting also discussed plans to send a team of CSO representatives to the Addis Ababa peace table. STEWARDWOMEN as a women organization particularly met with women groups in

Nairobi to discuss her support for a female representative to the Addis Ababa peace table to discuss issues affecting women during the conflict and beyond.

STEARDDWOMEN represented South Sudan at regional level in Nairobi, Kenya during a sensitization workshop organized by IPAS. This was a two day workshop on legalization of abortion in Africa. This workshop was attended by more than 25 African countries.

10 protection and GBV cluster meetings have also been attended. In these meetings, member organisations have been updating each other on the activities of the organization and protection concerns. Some of the discussion points during these meetings include; the protection issues of women, children and elderly among the IDPs and vulnerable populations, the issue of the recent fighting and its humanitarian consequences like rape, abduction, ambush, lack of food etc; shared partner updates in relation to protection needs and challenges of the general population and humanitarian partners; identifying organizations that duplicate activities in the same area, awareness creation on the activities of each partner and lobby for finances to support projects of the organization.

STEARDDWOMEN also participated in Initial Rapid Needs Assessment among the IDPs in Nimule where the needs of the IDPs were identified. This led to emergency response by both the national and international NGOs to rescue the conditions of IDPs in the camps.

## **End of project review workshops;**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014, we conducted an end of project review workshop in Romich with 30 participants in attendance comprising of 8 females and 22 males. The activity was attended by community paralegals (CPLs), Police GBV desks, family court members and peace committees in both Payams of Romich and Paliang. Also present were youths, local traditional leaders/chiefs and women representatives. Particularly we were interested in identifying the challenges that hindered the implementation of the project during the project period and propose the solutions to the challenges of project

implementation and also identify projects for the next phase. We identified the projects for the next phase to run for 3 years and not 5 months.

## **Trainings/workshops and other events attended;**

STEARWARDWOMEN attended two workshops which were for three days each. One of the workshops was a planning and networking workshop which was organized by Pact Sudan attended by the Program Officer and the Finance Officer. The other workshop is monitoring and evaluation workshop organized by War Child Holland attended by the Assistant child protection officer.

Steward attended a two days security training in April that was organised by Pact in South Sudan. This training was organised for partner organisations and her staff. The aim of the training was to improve the personal security skills of personnel working in insecure environments. The training focused on threat, risk, and vulnerability, security strategies and management framework, emergency communications and incident reporting and so on.

ON 26<sup>TH</sup> April 2014, STEWARDWOMEN participated in the second graduation ceremony of St. Monica Skill Training School. St. Monica graduated 13 graduates who got certificates in catering and tailoring. St. Monica started as a saving group where few women contributed money and then gave as loans to group members. With time it got training on saving from JRS while CRS supported them with sewing machines that made it possible for them to start a skill developing school. Among the 13 graduates, one was a boy who was among the best 6 students to perform highly in tailoring. STEWARDWOMEN advised parents to identify natural talents in their children and develop them through skills training.

## **STEARWARDWOMEN yearly events/IWD;**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014, STEWARDWOMEN joined the rest of the world in celebrating the International Women's Day (IWD) in Pageri Payam under the national theme "challenges and achievements in the implementation of the millennium development

goals for women and girls”. STEWARDWOMEN local theme was “preventing early forced marriage is respect for human rights”. These celebrations were taken to the grass roots to create awareness and advocate for the rights of women and girls at that level.

STEWARDWOMEN also participated in the International Women’s Day in Romich Payam in Tonj East County, Warrap State. The theme of the day was “challenges faced by women in achieving the millennium development goals”. STEWARDWOMEN and Pact in South Sudan contributed the sum of 250 South Sudanese Pounds to support the women groups there.

### **STEWARDWOMEN quarterly events;**

Our quarterly events include board meetings. Hence 2 board meetings were held on 13<sup>th</sup> /January/2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> /1/2014 at Multi-Purpose Hall, DOT. The first meeting was the board of directors’ quarterly meeting. The meeting discussed organisation assets and presentation of activity and financial reports for 2013. The second meeting was emergency board meeting. This was meant for the presentation of the master work plan and budget for 2014 and their approval.

Another board meeting was held at STEWARDWOMEN Nimule office. In these meetings board of directors were elected and the board was updated on the progress of activities of the first quarter.

The table below shows the list of persons who constitute STEWARDWOMEN board members;

| <b>S/N</b> | <b>Name</b>          | <b>Position</b>  |
|------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1.         | Jua Florence         | Chairperson      |
| 2.         | Aziku Cicily Yassa   | Vice chairperson |
| 3.         | Inyakua Esther Irama | Secretary        |

|    |                        |          |
|----|------------------------|----------|
| 4. | Awizia Night Orrick    | Treasure |
| 5. | Azuruku Henry          | Advisor  |
| 6. | Alira William          | Advisor  |
| 7. | Bayoa Betty Santos     | Member   |
| 8. | Akeri Angelina Asienzo | Member   |

On the 24th/May/2014 STEWARD held an emergency board meeting to approve the activities and the budget for the second quarter.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014, another board meeting was held for the purposes of presenting and approving the activity and financial plans and reports of the fourth quarter and also approve the internal audit report.

## **STEARAWOMEN publications;**

In March 2014, STEARAWOMEN published its events of the international women's day. A copy of the publication is available on <http://stewardwomen.org/pdf/STEARAWOMEN%20celebrates%20IWD%20with%20grassroot%20women.pdf>.

STEARAWOMEN has also developed fliers to sensitize the people of South Sudan about the importance of ratifying the Maputo protocol. A copy of the flier is available on <http://stewardwomen.org/pdf/STEARAWOMEN%20flyer.pdf>

In December 2014, STEARAWOMEN held a press conference on the citizen-government engagement to ratify the Maputo protocol. The conference resulted into a press release on the Juba Monitor of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

In December 2014 again, there was a news release published on the Juba monitor about the project inception workshop in Obbo Payam where boma chiefs criticized the manner in which the paramount chief handles cases of rape.



## **STEARWARDWOMEN interviews;**

In January 2014, STEWARDWOMEN was interviewed by the Mamacash in the Netherlands about the conflict that broke out in the country in December 2014. This interview was to update our donor on the security situation and also the protection needs of women and girls amidst the conflict. The interview can be down loaded on <http://www.mamacash.org/news/crisis-south-sudan-an-update-from-our-grantee/>.

In July 2014, STEWARDWOMEN was interviewed by the global observatory in New York, USA. The interview focused on the family court initiative by STEWARDWOMEN to empower traditional chiefs to resolve GBV cases and particularly child marriage. The interview can be down loaded on <http://theglobalobservatory.org/2014/08/traditional-chiefs-preventing-child-marriage-south-sudan/>.

## **Success stories;**

STEARWARDWOMEN received 6 success stories from the social mobilisers; the first one rescued a school girl from being married off to a police officer after the father has been receiving money from him.

The second one rescued a girl whose father had refused to pay her school fees. He then started paying her school fees. She is now in a secondary school.

The third one was the social mobiliser herself who saved her marriage after the family was complaining about her producing only girls. After the training of social mobilisers, she managed to convince her husband about what they learnt on the importance of girls and he accepted.

This very social mobiliser also saved the neighbour's marriage after a woman had produced 3 girls and she was already pregnant. She was informed that this time round if she gives birth to a girl, the marriage is over. The social mobiliser asked to talk to her husband who listened to her attentively and said he will not now chase away the wife even if she produces a girl. The woman then produced a boy.

This social mobiliser also convinced a girl who was poor in class to join tailoring in St. Monika which she did and finished. She is now earning money.

Another social mobiliser reported that due to constant sensitization about the rights of women and girls, there has been reduced cases of rape and domestic violence in her community because she went a head and appointed more resource persons to watch over the community.

1 STEWARDWOMEN staff gave a success story about how her knowledge has broadened since she started working in STEWARDWOMEN.

In Romich payam, Tonj East County, Warrap State, after the training of community paralegals, police released 3 suspects who were wrongfully arrested and detained for crimes committed by their relatives and,

A woman was also granted divorce by the Romich family court the establishment and training of family court officials.

In Paliang Payam, in Tonj East County, after the training in community policing, there is now easy access to the paralegals to the police detention centres.

In Romich Payam again, after the training of paralegals, the vice chairperson of the paralegals found himself appointed as a mediator during community conflict resolution in Romich. In total, we registered 11 success stories in 2014.

## **STEWARDWOMEN partnership updates;**

On 29<sup>th</sup>/May 2014 STEWARDWOMEN signed a partnership agreement with War Child Holland for a three month project on emergency protection needs of children in Melijo IDP camp.

In June 2014, we signed another partnership agreement with Solidarity for African women's rights coalition for a 6 months project on citizen-government engagement to ratify Maputo protocol by South Sudan. The activities of the project took place in Juba.

In September 2014, STEWARDWOMEN signed a 4 months partnership with Pact South Sudan to implement the access to justice project in Romich and Paliang Payams in Tonj East County, Warrap State. The project came to an end in December 2014.

In October 2014, STEWARDWOMEN signed a one year partnership with CORDAID in the Netherlands to implement a project on promoting sustainable access to justice for vulnerable women and girls in Kerepi, Magwi and Obbo Payams. The project ends in September 2015.

In November 2014, STEWARDWOMEN signed a four months partnership with the Embassy of France in South Sudan. This was to implement a project entitled “mitigating GBV through training on bakery and management of savings and loans” to be implemented in Nimule. This project ends in April 2015.

## **Assessments done;**

There were several capacity assessments done by the following organizations namely DCA, CORDAID, War Child Holland and SIDA. Some of these assessments resulted to into fundable projects.

## **Other achievements;**

- In February 2014, STEWARDWOMEN recruited a Women Protection Officer to specifically handle the project of Mama Cash entitled ‘Promoting sustainable access to justice among vulnerable women and girls in Madi corridor’ and in June 2014, also recruited a Finance Officer who is based in Juba Office. We also recruited an Administrative/Accounts Assistant to help with the field finances. We also recruited a two cleaners, Field staff for child protection, Field staff for peace building and a Legal Aid Officer.
- Another remarkable achievement for us was the formation of the STEWARDWOMEN Board of Directors. This could not be taken for granted.

- On the 13th June 2014, the Organization was registered at a national level which is another great achievement.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014, STEWARDWOMEN set up a child friendly space at Baptist church to provide safe ground for children to play and also act as a place for protecting children's rights and developing children's mind. A goal post was one of the structures put in the child friendly space and were provided with 2 balls, 10 pairs sports uniforms, 5 boxes of poster colour, 15 dozens of crayons, 3 dozens of coloured pencils, colours, 1basket ball, 3 volley balls, 5 whistles, 2 pumps for balls, 6 rulers, 3 dozens of artists brass, 4 sets of water colour, 6 pieces of sharpener,
- On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014, the Program Manager completed her studies in Peace and security and two days after she joined the organization as the Programme Coordinator.
- On December 2014, a national coalition was established to oversee the activities of accelerating the women's rights protocol with a national secretariat at STEWARDWOMEN.
- STEWARDWOMEN conducted a baseline study on women access to justice to identify new forms of GBV and security issues for women and girls in Magwi county. The report of the study is ready to be shared with others.
- Following the end of our 5 year strategic plan, STEWARDWOMEN developed a 3 year strategic plan running through 2015-2017.

We finally relocated to a secure office premises in Motoyo East in Nimule Payam which premises also provide us with 2 guest houses.

## **Challenges faced in 2014;**

Heavy work load; the Program Manager was on study leave, the Executive Director was due for maternity leave at a certain period and the Women Protection Officer had also got an accident. This made the remaining staffs that had their own work, to fill in the gaps for missing staff. This also affected their work as well as the work of the

organization and the health of some staffs that put in vigorous efforts to move towards achieving our mission.

The lack of a Finance Officer had made the Executive Director to act the role of the Finance Officer. She faced challenges of late but also incomplete financial reports from the field staff. This also led to a big financial gap since she could not do her work of lobbying for funds.

By the end of 2014, 2 staff namely the Women Protection Officer and the Program Officer had left the organisation creating a huge human resource gap. These are staffs in which STEWARDWOMEN had invested heavily by training them on the job. .

By the end of 2014, the security situation in the country also worsened when conflict broke in the country. This made some of our beneficiaries to flee to the neighbouring Uganda for safety.

We were also unable to meet the high expectations of our beneficiaries in monetary terms since most of them expect to be given money instead of feeding them directly during workshops and trainings.

We have constantly experienced projects that last 3-7 months making it very difficult for us to realise the long term impact of our work.

We have also faced challenges with community leaders or elites who during selection of beneficiaries are providing us with the names of the same resource persons.

Our internet communication has continued to be unstable thus hampering our work. This gets worse during rainy season.

## **Future plans;**

We plan to extend our operational areas from 3 states to 4-5 states.

We also plan to purchase a better vehicle to manage bad roads during field trips.

We also plan to install a better internet network to ease our work.

## Conclusion;

We made a lot of achievements in the year 2014 even though the several challenges kept facing us. We shall use these challenges to progress our work and systems in order to realise our mission.

