



STEWARD-ORG

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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## **A message from the Executive Director of STEWARD –ORG**

STEWARD-ORG celebrates 5 years of community service and women and children protection. She looks forward to drawing her next years' strategic plan at the end of 2014. The challenges she encountered during the past 5years have been a learning point creating room for progress. The strengths have brought her this far. As a team together we shall achieve the vision of STEWARD-ORG and make it become STEWARDWOMEN.

## **THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ORGANISATION**

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”.

## **THE VISION STATEMENT**

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

## **COVER PHOTO**

A female participant expresses the need for continuous dialogue among the community members in order for peace to prevail in South Sudan. This was during a follow-up meeting to address challenges of dispute resolution in Paliang Payam, Tonj East County, Warrap State, South Sudan.

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## **Executive Summary**

STEWARD-ORG is a community based non-governmental organization that operates in three States of South Sudan namely Eastern Equatoria, Warrap and Central Equatoria. The organisation operates in an environment that has high level of insecurities caused by cattle raiding, conflicts over communal grazing land and water points, border disputes, high poverty levels, high rates of illiteracy, high levels of sexual and gender based violence, high levels of domestic violence, poor, social and economic infrastructure and the recent December 2013 conflict.

STEWARD-ORG implemented two main projects in 2013. The first was a project entitled “Promoting sustainable access to justice among vulnerable women and girls in Madi-Corridor” in Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State, supported by Mama Cash in the Netherlands. The second project was “strengthening community capacity to mitigate conflicts in Tonj East County” in Warrap State. This project was supported by Pact Sudan.

The target beneficiaries for both our projects, directly and indirectly include: women, girls, youth leaders, police, boma chiefs, elders, Payam authorities, religious leaders, teachers, traditional authorities, community leaders, magistrates, local government, women leaders and men. It is estimated that 5,000 persons (3500 female and 1500 male) directly benefited from the programme of STEWARD-ORG. The organisation recorded a number of successes and challenges.

Although 2013 started very well, the end of the year came with a big loss to the organization. In November, the organisation properties were stolen. In the mid December, violent conflict broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan on 15<sup>th</sup>/12/2013. This affected the implementation of our activities of the project particularly on strengthening community capacity to mitigate conflicts in Tonj East County.

## **1.0 Introduction**

This annual report is in line with the constitutional requirements of the organization in article 6.2 (ii). The constitution provides 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. This annual report is intended to update the Governing Council and other stakeholders regarding the progress of the organization in 2013 as well as some challenges the organization encountered during the year. It indicates some future plans and directions of the organization.

The year 2013 has been an important but also very progressive year in terms of organisational management, programme and donor support. The organisation had three donors i.e. Mamacash, Pact Sudan and Miva OneMen. Miva OneMen supported us with funding for the purchase of two motorbikes to support our access to justice project in Nimule.

### **1.1 Brief back ground of the organisation**

Support the Empowerment of Women and their Rights for Development Organization (STEWARD-ORG) is a community based not-for-profit non- governmental organization founded by South Sudanese women lawyers to stimulate development and to address incidences 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. In January 2013 STEWARD received first phase of a seven month project from Pact Sudan. In October 2013, STEWARD received a multi -year grant for the second phase of the project from Mama Cash. This grant runs until 2015.

### **1.2 Philosophy and Objectives**

- i). STEWARD-ORG is a community based organization. Her structure, objectives and programme will reflect this.
- ii). STEWARD-ORG will be guided by the values of subsidiarity, transparency and accountability.
- iii). In all her endeavours', STEWARD-ORG will provide equal opportunities to disadvantaged women, girls and youths in her areas of operation. Gender awareness shall be streamlined into her programme.

### **1.3 Specific Objectives**

- i). Promote advocacy on the rights of women and children.
- ii). Provide legal assistance to victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), and orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC).
- iii). Improve the livelihood of marginalized women, OVC and youths.
- iv). Promote good governance, peace and reconciliation.

## **2.0 Summary of Projects**

### **2.1 Under the project strengthening community capacity to mitigate conflicts, the following activities were conducted:**

- Production of information, communication and education (ICE) materials.
- Printing and distribution of copies of the Transitional Constitution.
- Joint stake-holders' project inception workshops.
- Establishment of two community peace committees.
- Development of training manuals.
- Train peace committees.
- Conflict monitoring and mediation by peace committees
- Sensitization workshop for local justice structures
- Dialogue on the challenges of administration of the local justice.
- Follow-up meetings to address challenges faced in dispute resolution.
- Public awareness campaigns.

### **2.2 Under the project promoting sustainable access to justice for vulnerable women and girls, STEWARD conducted the following activities:**

- Production of information, communication and education (ICE) materials on the legal and human rights of women and girls and justice issues.
- Conduct a baseline study on women access to justice in Madi-corridor.

- Sensitize women, girls, youth leaders, police, boma chiefs, elders, Payam authorities, religious leaders, teachers, traditional authorities, community leaders, local government, women leaders and men on the legal and human rights of women and girls.
- Conduct home visits to follow up with women who cannot report their cases to STEWARD-ORG office.
- Train social mobilisers/human rights activists on social mobilization skills.
- Provide psychosocial support and legal counselling to victims of gender based violence and follow-up of cases with the appropriate local government authority and institutions for redress.
- Hold live radio talk shows to sensitize the community on the legal and human rights of women and girls, their freedoms and justice issues.
- Establish a gender based violence desk office in STEWARD-ORG office.

### **3.0 Summary of achievements of the organisation in 2013**

- STEWARD-ORG represented South Sudan in Seoul, South Korea during a global conference on feminism in which Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan represented Africa.
- STEWARD-ORG facilitated the translation of the transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan into Dinka language.
- 55 copies of the translated Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan into Dinka language were printed and distributed to Payam authorities, Pact Sudan, police, chiefs and magistrates, the Commissioner Tonj East, the area MP, Peace committees of Paliang and Romich.
- 100 T-shirts with human rights messages were printed and distributed to the peace committees, Pact Sudan, the commissioner of Tonj East, Payam authorities, magistrates, traditional chiefs. These T-shirts have messages that inform, communicate and educate the community on justice and human rights issues.

- 500 pieces of posters and 2 banners with educative messages on peaceful dispute resolution were printed and distributed to Payam authorities, magistrates, traditional chiefs and the communities of Paliang and Romich.
- STEWARD-ORG expanded her office from one office to three offices in Nimule, Juba and in Kuajok Warrap state.
- Two peace committees were established in Romich and Paliang with Fifteen members each who comprise of the police, magistrates, chiefs, women leaders, youth leaders, Payam authorities, religious leaders, and teachers. The peace committee act as a mechanism for alternative dispute resolution in the community, monitor cases, resolve cases at family levels, make referrals to the relevant authorities.
- Fifteen (15) social mobilizers/activists were set in Nimule, Pageri and Mugali Payams in Eastern Equatoria. These activists sensitize the community on human rights, dangers of gender based violence and early forced marriages.
- STEWARD-ORG hosted the International Women’s Day under STEWARD local theme: raising voices against violence on women and girls in South Sudan. This activity was conducted in Nimule and Tonj East. 700 people were reached in Nimule and about 400 in Tonj East. In Tonj East County a fund raising drive to support women association raised about 1000 South Sudanese Pounds.
- The community was sensitized on nonviolence, human rights and gender issues during public campaigns
- Eight community sensitization workshops held in Tonj East and Madi- Corridor. Three hundred direct beneficiaries were reached. This has led to increased knowledge on issues of justice, women human rights and gender among the community members and increased participation and involvement of women in responding to issues of SGBV and human rights. Two training manuals were developed been developed; one on the legal and human rights of women and girls and the other on selected statutory laws in South Sudan.



#### 4.0 Table showing Cases registered in 2013

No. of cases registered	No. of people counselled	No. of mediations conducted	No. of cases pending mediation	No. Of cases withdrawn	No. Of court cases handled
150	112	75	35	15	none

#### 5.0 Plenary

##### Meetings

- 5 Board meetings were conducted
- Built networks and coalition with national and international NGOs through attendance of conferences, workshops and protection cluster meetings. Attended seven meetings at the Payam with other local and international NGOs.
- STEWARD-ORG had organisational development assessment done by stars foundation.

#### 6.0 Challenges

- High Staff turnover in search of greener pastures affected the performance of the organisation since the gaps were not filled, coupled with the departure of the Program Manager who left for study leave.
- Armed conflicts that started in Juba on 15<sup>th</sup> /12/2013 affected the organization, in that some of the activities of the organisation were put on hold.
- Women were not willing to disclose their problems in fear that they will be exposed to more violence such as divorce or beating by their partners
- One GBV desk was established in Nimule. This made it quite difficult for the victims from Mugali and Pageri Payams to report their cases to the office quickly.

- Other men (husbands) and parents restrict their wives and daughters to be visited by STEWARD-ORG Staff during home visits.
- Poor infrastructure especially in Tonj East County made accessibility of some places impossible especially during rainy season.
- Theft of Organisation assets. 5 computers, an office phone, printer which had multi-purpose functions, office modem, organisation documents and cash.

## 7.0 Future plans

- Acquire land for a women development centre.
- Raise more funds and improve her audit systems
- Open more GBV desk offices to improve reporting of cases
- Establish family courts to address cases affecting women
- Support women and girls who cannot afford legal fees to take their cases to court
- Extend her activities to the neighbouring payams.
- Continue providing psychosocial support, legal counselling and follow-up of cases to victims of GBV.
- Conduct assessment on the protection needs of vulnerable women and girls.
- Family tracing and reunification of vulnerable children.
- Establish and manage a child friendly centre for vulnerable children.
- Host more live radio talk shows for selected vulnerable children to share their stories with the community.

## 8.0 Summary of financial statement for 2013

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Total Cash received	<b>160,435.02 USD</b>
Received in-kind	<b>15,797 USD</b>
Total money withdrawn	<b>103,236.7 USD</b>
Total expenditure	<b>98,237 USD</b>

Balance carried forward as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2013	<b>38,520 USD</b>	<b>9,105 SSP</b> <b>2881.32 USD</b>
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## 9.0 Grants received

Source	Date of Receipt	Amount	Equivalent in USD
Balance B/F	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2012	7,673 USD	
Mama cash	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2013	35,000 Euros	64,462.02 USD
Pact Sudan	17 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2013	74,500 USD	
Miva Onemen	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2013	9,985 Euros	13,200 USD
Board Contribution		600 USD	
<b>Total</b>		<b>160.435.02 USD</b>	

## Acknowledgements

STEWARD –ORG appreciates the financial support and in-kind contribution from the Donors (Pact Sudan, Mama Cash and Miva men).

STEWARD –ORG extends her thanks to the translator Mr. Amos Awon Gak for the effort and time in translating the Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan into Dinka language.

Sincere thanks to the Legal Editor Mrs. Elizabeth Atong Malual for the technical advice and editorial work.

Special thanks to Board of directors for their constant technical and voluntary advice.

STEWARD –ORG extends her gratitude to her staff for their time, resources, advice and contribution towards the achievements of 2013.