



STEWARDSHIP

FIRST QUARTER NARRATIVE REPORT

2015

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1.0 Introduction

This report provides brief highlights of the activities and events that took place between the months of January, February and March 2015 in STEWARDWOMEN organization. The events and activities covered under this report are implemented in the Payams of Pageri, Mugali, Nimule, Kerepi, Magwi and Obbo all in Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State. Some of the networking, coalition and lobby meetings took place in Juba and out of South Sudan as we shall read below. This report is intended to cover three projects namely “promoting sustainable access to justice for vulnerable women and girls” in Magwi County supported by Mama Cash in Pageri, Nimule and Mugali payams and CORDAID in Kerepi, Magwi and Obbo Payams and “mitigating GBV through training of vulnerable women and girls on bakery and SLA management” supported by the Embassy of France in South Sudan is implemented in Nimule Payam. The report shall be arranged according to each project. The following is the report for activities that were planned to be undertaken in the first quarter as per each project.

2.0 Activities planned and Implemented by project;

2.1 Promoting sustainable access to justice for vulnerable women and girls in Magwi County; (Mamacash)

1) STEWARDWOMEN trained family court officials in Pageri and Mugali Payams separately for two days each on the procedure to be used by family courts in handling of cases. Specifically they were taught how to register, counsel, mediate and refer cases either to hospital or polices and also shown how to compile such data in a report writing format. The training in Pageri brought together 15 participants of which 6 were emale and 9 were male from the bomas of Pageri, Moli and Opari while in Mugali also 15 family court officials attended with 6 female and 9 male from the bomas of Bilinya, Masindi, Avumadri, Sau and Ganzi. The family court is now competent enough to handle cases.

2) STEWARDWOMEN celebrated this year’s international women’s day (IWD) in Magwi Payam on 8th March 2015 under the CORDAID project and in Mugali Payam on the 14th March 2015 under the Mamacash project. The preparations for this day started with development of 2 banners bearing the international theme “make it happen”, national theme “make sustainable peace happen in South Sudan” and our local theme “women can make it happen”. We developed 600 posters bearing pictures of a violent free family and another family leaving in violence, 1000 stickers with words such as children are not wives, early and forced marriage is a crime, women have a right to own and control property, forced abortion is a crime etc. we printed 100 t-shirts bearing the STEWARDWOMEN theme for the IWD. We also held 3-4 planning meetings in each Payams to identify the organizing committees who together with STEWARDWOMEN would assist in ensuring the celebration is successful. We had over 1200 people who turned up for the celebrations in Magwi and over 700 in Mugali. The Hon. Betty Ochan Ogwaro, a member of the National Legislative Assembly and a former National Minister of Agriculture and Forestry was the guest of honor in Magwi and Mrs Inyakua Esther Irama, our very own Executive Director of STEWARDWOMEN was the guest of honor in Mugali. In Magwi county, we were joined by the country Director of

CORDAID and their interim Justice and Security Advisor. The event in Mugali was also attended by two board advisors. Kerepi women also joined the Mugali celebrations.

3) We participated in 4 international conferences and workshops and 5 protection and GBV cluster meetings. One international conference took place in Addis Ababa where STEWARDWOMEN was selected among women organizations in Africa to attend a consultative meeting organized by the African Unions Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC). The purpose of this meeting was to consult with women in Africa on what should be presented before the 54 presidents in Africa during their 24th summit (meeting) in Addis Ababa. This was followed by another meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia organized by Solidarity for African Women’s Rights (SOAWR). STEWARDWOMEN was again selected on a 25 team as a SOAWR coalition member out of the 67 members to attend the annual review meeting. The purpose was to critique, reflect on and analyse SOAWR activities and progress made, share experiences and best practices, evaluate the activities, and strategize jointly on the next steps to move the Maputo protocol campaign forward for the coming years. The third workshop was by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in Nairobi, Kenya where STEWARDWOMEN was selected as a team of experts to review the progress made by each country in Africa towards Maputo Plan of Action and see whether it was aligned to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4, 5 and 6. Goal 4 relates to reduction of child mortality, goal 5 on improved maternal health and goal 6 on combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The fourth was a conference attended by STEWARDWOMEN organized by EVE women organization for development with offices in Juba. The purpose of the conference was to strategize issues of women in case the peace agreement is signed and also what should women be doing in case the agreement is not signed and the conflict continues. Additionally, we also attended a meeting in Juba organized by Laida University in UK and CORDAID in South Sudan. This meeting was to provide input into research being conducted by these two organizers on “supporting primary justice in insecure contexts” with specific focus on South Sudan. STEWARDWOMEN being one of the agencies working on access to justice was involved in this meeting in this capacity. 5 cluster meetings have also been attended at Juba level. These meetings provide organizations forums for member organizations to update on progress and protection concerns. They are also a platform to network and receive information on funding opportunities and possible partnerships.

4) STEWARDWOMEN through their community volunteers such as the family court resolved the following cases as summarized in the table below;-

Payam	Registered	Category	Mediated	Counselled	Police	Hospital	Pending	Remarks
Mugali	3	-Domestic violence(3) resulting from wife battery,	3	-	-	-	-	One commitment letter signed.

		overdrinking leading to family quarrels, and Not roofing the family house resulted to daily quarrels						5 days given for the perpetrator to roof their family house with close observation of the family court.
Pageri	3	-Family fighting (2) -Neglect of family responsibilities	3	-	-	-	-	Both cases were amicably resolved.
Total	6	As listed above	6	-	-	-	-	As above

2.2 Promoting sustainable access to justice for vulnerable women and girls in Magwi County; (CORDAID)

5) STEWARDWOMEN identified 15 GBV Counsellors in Kerepi, Magwi and Obbo in December 2014 during a project inception meeting in which 5 GBV counsellors were selected from each of the payams. During this quarter, we trained these counsellors for 8 days in two phases. The first phase of the training was on counselling and communication skills and was for 4 days. The second phase of the training also took 4 days and was on the human rights provisions in the statutory laws both national and international. The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of the GBV Counsellors so as to provide psychosocial and legal support to GBV survivors in their communities. The original planning of this training was that all the 3 payams converge in a central place for the training. We had also Identified Magwi Payam as the central location for the training but due to the unstable security situation in the Madi Corridor, Kerepi GBV counsellors objected to travelling to Magwi for the 4 days training. Instead their training was organized separately in their payam. Hence Magwi and Obbo GBV Counsellors ended up being trained together and were graduated on the international Women's day celebrations while their certificates were awarded by Hon. Betty Ochan Ogwaro, a member of the National Legislative Assembly and a former National Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Instead of training 5 GBV Counsellors for Kerepi, we ended up training 6 because the 6th person badly wanted to attain the knowledge and skills in counselling, so we allowed her.

6) STEWARDWOMEN held a community dialogue in Magwi payam that was attended by 23 participants of which 2 were male. The dialogue was on women's property rights and inheritance rights of widows. This dialogue was in line with Article 28(1)a of the transitional constitution, 2011 that guarantees every person a right to acquire or own property and also

Article 16(5) of the same constitution which guarantees women the right to own property and share in the estates of their deceased husbands together with any surviving legal heir of the deceased. One of the participants during this dialogue noted that the lack of women's ownership to particularly land has led to food insecurity. This perception of women not owning property dates back from harmful customary practices that affect women's wellbeing.

7) STEWARDWOMEN established more family courts in the payams of Kerepi, Magwi and Obbo Payams. The earlier ones were established in Mugali, Nimule and Pageri but the Nimule one is not operational. The purpose of establishing these courts is to ensure there is available local justice structure in place to handle gender based violence cases. And the name family court is derived from the fact that most cases of GBV happen in families and also affect family members. The members of each family court are composed of boma chiefs, women and youth leaders. "Eiba Vura" is the name given to the family court in the Ma'di corridor while in Magwi and Obbo Payams that speak Acholi, they named it "Pi do pa jo ot". These two terms are now commonly being used by the two communities to refer to family court. In Kerepi, 15 members were nominated as members of the family court of which 9 are female and 6 are male. In Magwi also 15 members were nominated of which 6 are female and 9 are male. And in Obbo Payam, 15 members were nominated of which 6 are female and 9 are male. We are now left with training these officials.

8) STEWARDWOMEN also held a market campaign on women's property and inheritance rights of widows. This was for the purpose of drawing the attention of the people in the market to the existing laws that protect the little monies and other items women have acquired over the years to own and control their use. The people in the market were also informed that the current transitional constitution of South Sudan allows women to inherit property of their dead husbands and it's an offence to deprive such women of such property. The property is left to support the children of the deceased. The women commented that it was their first time to hear about the right of women to anything. They used to hear about the rights of women while they were in camps in Uganda. One woman commented that today they have learned something. Even though they will not practice it today, it is good to learn especially where they never got opportunity to go to school. They welcomed STEWARDWOMEN to educate them on what is happening in the country and out there.

9) STEWARDWOMEN held two live radio talks shows in Borongole FM, one on what family courts are, what is their role in the community. We went ahead to mention names of the members to the listeners. This topic was derived after a successful training that was given to the family court officials for two days each in Pageri and Mugali Payams. The second topic of the live radio talk show was the role of GBV Counsellors. This also came after the training of GBV Counsellors for 8 days in Kerepi and Magwi Payams took place. This time we used 4 languages including English, Ma'di, Acholi and local Arabic since the project covers a big part of Magwi county and also for the benefit of the IDPs. In the earlier talk shows, we have been using English and Ma'di only. In each of the talk shows, we bring one or two beneficiaries of these trainings to the talk shows to share their experiences and also inform the community about their presence.

10) STEWARDWOMEN visited one prison cell and two police detention centres to ascertain the condition in which the female inmates were in and provide any necessary support. The prison cell visited was in Magwi and had no women in cell. We also visited Magwi Police detention centre where we found two female detainees. One was charged with murder of her own child and she asked us to provide her with counselling only which we did. The other woman had been charged with grievous hurt of cutting her co-wife with a panga on the head. This one asked us to find ways of getting her out. We talked to the officer in charge of the police to speed up the process of her investigation and she be put on trial as soon as possible. The other police station visited was Pageri where two women in their periods without support were provided with pads and the other needed extra underwear.

11) STEWARDWOMEN conducted a school debate in Magwi Payam during the period of celebrating the international women's day. The purpose of the debate was to promote girl child education with a specific topic on "girl child education is important". 4 primary schools namely Magwi P/S, Covenant Christian Kindergarten Nursery and P/S, Magwi Central P/S and Magwi Hope nursery and P/S participated in the debate which took place in Magwi Secondary school as a neutral ground. The judges for the debate also came from Magwi SS. Out of the 4, we put two schools in group A and another set of two schools in group B. In the finals, the winners from A competed with winners from group B. The best school during this debate was supported with scholastic materials such as 5 dozens of exercise books, 2 boxes of pens, 2 pieces of masking tape, 30 pieces of manila cards, 5 pieces of counter books, 5 pieces of box files, 2 pieces of ruled papers and 4 boxes of chalk. There was a delivery note signed in receipt of these items. Unfortunately, the winner came from group B that was opposing making the motion to read "girl child education is not important" but this was because the judges considered many things including articulate arguments.

12) STEWARDWOMEN through their community volunteers, this time the GBV counsellors of Kerepi registered the following cases. The table below shows the summary of cases registered mediated, counselled, referred to police and or hospital, cases pending and any other remarks by these volunteers.

Payam	Registered	Category	Mediated	Counselled	Police	Hospital	Pending	Remarks
Kerepi	5	-Domestic violence(2) Attempted murder (1) -Denial of property (1) -Land dispute (1)	2	-	1	1	1	GBV counsellors are cooperative and enjoy their work
Magwi	8	-Fighting (2)	6	-	-	-	2	Excessive

		-Theft (1) Domestic Violence (5)						drinking in the community is causing a lot of violence
Obbo	10	Attempted murder (1) Separation (2) -Accident (3) -Forced abortion (1) -Early marriage (2) Fighting (1)	5	-	1	3	1	Also held dialogue on importance of girl-child for which community gave land for school
Total	23	As listed above	13	-	2	4	4	Long distance between bomas reduces chances of counselling

2.3 Mitigating GBV through training of vulnerable women and girls on bakery and SLA management (Embassy of France in South Sudan)

11) STEWARDWOMEN identified 15 GBV survivors from Nimule Payam to be supported with training homemade baking. Some of these survivors are previous clients of STEWARDWOMEN while others were identified with the help of community leaders. After the survivors were identified, they were registered in our office and thereafter briefed about the project and its upcoming activities in a project inception meeting.

12) We then conducted a training on bakery for the 15 GBV survivors with the help of a consultant. Before we conducted the training, we constructed an oven to facilitate the baking. The training on bakery was conducted for 30 days in Nimule Payam. Some 4 staffs of STEWARDWOMEN were also among those who benefited from the training in bakery. The purpose of the training was to equip the trainees with skills in assorted baking products in order to become self-reliant so as to provide support to their families. The particular products that the participants learnt included bread/loaf making, cake baking, biscuit making, samosa and chapatti making. During the training, the items such as biscuits were being bought by customers both outside and inside the training premises. We sold about 250SSP during this period. The money will be used to start the loan scheme that the members will benefit from. After this training, we have noticed that every day, the

beneficiaries come on the Nimule office compound to access the use of the oven. This means there is market for what they are cooking and supplying.

13) STEWARDWOMEN also trained these 15 GBV survivors on Savings and Loans Associations (SLA) management. This was for the purpose of managing small contributions that the members will begin to put together. Also what will happen if they need to get loans from financial institutions? After this training, the 15 GBV survivors will be graduated on the 29th April 2015 and also be provided with start-up kits to kick start their personal projects. In the meantime, the beneficiaries are already saving money from the proceeds of their weekly sale.

14) STEWARDWOMEN supported the 15 women to form savings and loan association. The association has been named STEWARDWOMEN loans group. The group also formed a structure where they elected a chairperson, secretary and a treasurer for the group. The members agreed to meet every Wednesday to start saving their money. STEWARDWOMEN will support the group with coming up with a bye law to manage the savings association.

15) STEWARDWOMEN also created linkages with financial institutions. This we did by visiting existing banks and Sacco's in Nimule Payam for purposes of building a working relationship with ourselves and the bakery beneficiaries. The banks that were visited are KCB, Equity and Liberty while the Saccos are RUFU and Fulla. These institutions have pledged their full support to work with STEWARDWOMEN beneficiaries since she is the first organization to approach them for such kind of partnership. They also promised to attend the graduation of the bakery graduation scheduled to take place on the 29th April at STEWARDWOMEN Nimule office compound.

18) STEWARDWOMEN also runs a social media account such as facebook and twitter. 4 key messages were posted on the organisation face book account. These include opening of GBV desk in Magwi payam to protect girls from forced abortion from parents and other violent incidences. Secondly amplifying the voice of SOAWR paying tribute to STEWARDWOMEN for making notable strides towards the protection and promotion of women's rights in South Sudan. Thirdly, on the participation of women during the annual review meeting organised to review the activities under Maputo protocol. The fourth and last was on the celebration of IWD at Magwi Payam. These messages on facebook and other social media accounts are meant to popularise the organization, mobilise support and inform the general public about what the organisation is doing or has been doing.

Activities that were not planned but implemeted;

19) STEWARDWOMEN opened two GBV desks in the police stations of Pageri and Magwi Payams. The purpose is to monitor the number of women who are accessing police services, in other words how many women report their cases to the police and what possible actions have been taken in response to their cases. By this morning, Magwi police had

registered 3 rape cases and one murder case, while Pageri had registered 5 cases of child neglect, 3 for sexual related violence of early marriage and 1 case of desertion.

20) STEWARDWOMEN attended 5 lobby meetings during this first quarter. The meetings were with Swiss Embassy on a possible support for the family court, CORDAID on future partnership, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare on possible partnership regarding Maputo Protocol, DCA for submission of a proposal on Maputo Protocol, UNDP and UNICEF for future funding opportunities. The outcome of these meetings is that, we have already submitted a proposal to DCA on accelerating the campaigns on Maputo protocol in South Sudan. We have also drafted a concept note for UNICEF which is close to finishing.

3.0 Achievements

1. We have started implementing the new strategic plan 2015-2017. This is helping us to direct our funding opportunities on strategic sourcing.
2. During this period, we developed 5 training manuals namely;
 - a. Training manual on family court procedure,
 - b. Training manual on counselling and communication skills,
 - c. Human rights provisions in the statutory laws,
 - d. Bakery making and
 - e. SLA management.

These manuals remain a big resource of STEWARDWOMEN.

3. Formation of a loan's association called STEWARDWOMEN loans group. This came out of the beneficiaries that STEWARDWOMEN has been training.
4. STEWARDWOMEN also developed a monitoring tool known as the Knowledge Transfer Form (KTF) to monitor the work of the GBV counsellors who have received training to ascertain the application of the knowledge.
5. STEWARDWOMEN recruited a Women Access to Justice Program officer and two security guards.
6. STEWARDWOMEN was given a tax Identification number by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Development for purposes of deducting 10% from every employee in South Sudan who earns more than 300SSP. This is a government policy for every employer operating in South Sudan to abide with.

4.0 Challenges

1. The security situation in Madi corridor worsened since the beginning of this year making some of our beneficiaries to flee to Uganda for safety.
2. The weather condition has also been affecting our internet network hence slowing down our work.

3. The weather is also responsible for the poor reception at radio stations making it unpredictable to schedule for a radio talk show at a particular time.
4. There is also lack of radio station in Magwi Payam making it impossible for some of our beneficiaries to access our radio programmes.
5. The rains have also come at a time when we are at the peak of our activities particularly under the CORDAID project where we need to travel on bad roads with no bridges to Magwi Pa yam. This has created fear in us and might affect our work in future.

5.0 Recommendations

1. Next time we need to choose a debate topic which even when the opposers win has no negative connotation on the topic of the debate. We also need to plan 2 weeks a head of the debating dates together with the participating schools in order learn the school programs.
2. In future we need to install a better internet booth which can be a ten user so as to easily facilitate our work since 60% of our work is done on the internet.
3. We need to plan more activities in a dry season and less in dry season.
4. We need to purchase a Toyota hard top vehicle in order to facilitate the work of the field staffs on bad roads.

6.0 Conclusion

First quarter was an action packed period with left overs of activities and reports of 2014 which made the staffs to put an extra energy to bring about the few achievements outlined above.