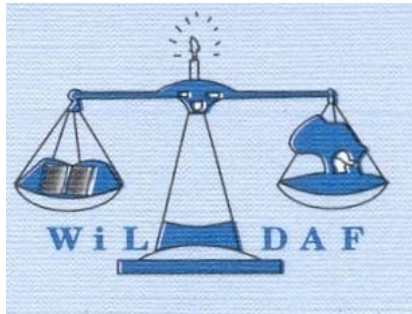


WILDAF GHANA 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



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Empowering Women through Law and Development

**WOMEN IN LAW AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
(WiLDAF Ghana)**

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
CCI	Canadian Crossroads International
CDO	Community Development Officer
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CoWIG	Coalition of Women in Governance
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DCE	District Chief Executive
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit
EU	European Union
GAWU of TUC	General Agricultural Workers Union of Trades Union Congress
GEST	Gender Equality Sector Group
LAP	Legal Awareness Programme
LLV	Legal Literacy Volunteers
LO	Legal Officer
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
NCCE	National Commission on Civic Education
NPC	National Programmes Coordinator
PCU	Persons in Consensual Union
SSNIT	Social Security and National Insurance Trust
VR	Volta Region
WAMM	Women Affairs Ministers Meeting
WR	Western Region
WSF	World Social Forum
ILGS	Institute of Local Government Studies
WERG	Women's Economic Research Group
AGE	Advocates for Gender Equity
AMA	Accra Metropolitan Assembly

Vision

A Ghana where women's rights are respected, promoted and protected.

Mission

WiLDAF Ghana empowers women by promoting their rights; and increasing their participation and influence at the community, national, and international levels through initiating, promoting, and strengthening strategies which link law and development.

Governance Structure

National Executive Committee (Board)

Cherub Antwi-Nsiah	-	Chair
Magdalene Kannae	-	ILGS
Diana Kpodo	-	Individual Member
Alexina Arthur	-	WERG University of Ghana
Lydia Sackey-Addy	-	AMA
Mrs. Elizabeth Q. Akpalu	-	AGE (Ex-officio member)
Dr. Naana Agyeman	-	The Hunger Project Ghana
Ms. Angela Dwamena – Aboagye	-	The Ark Foundation
Ms. Barbara Oteng Gyasi	-	Individual Member
Hon. Theresa Tagoe	-	UNIWAF

Programme Staff

Bernice Sam	-	National Programmes Co-ordinator
Ama Kpetigo	-	Programme Manager
Benjamin Kofi Quansah	-	Finance and Administration Manager
John Burke Baidoo	-	Programme Officer (LAP, W/R)
Oliver Dzeble	-	Programme Officer (LAP, V/R)
Patricia Essel	-	Programme Officer
Solomon Anancy	-	Finance Officer
Victor Adevuh-Quashie	-	Programme Support Officer (LAP, V/R)
Justice Edward Blay	-	Programme Assistant (LAP, W/R)
Melody Darkey	-	Programme Assistant (LAP, V/R)
Frank Wilson Bodza	-	Programme Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2007 has been a successful year for WiLDAF Ghana as we have been able to carry out all the programmes planned. In addition we have been able to take on activities that were not planned either on behalf of our partners or as a result of developments arising from our planned activities. These are highlights of activities undertaken during the year, challenges, impact and way forward for 2008.

Legal Awareness Programme

LAP continued with its legal aid services to women and children in the communities within the Volta, Western and Central Regions. The programme was able to generate a lot of data on various issues like maintenance, 'free notes' divorce, which would be analysed and used in our advocacy work at national level in the near future

RAVI Consensual Union Project

In 2007, WiLDAF Ghana concentrated on engaging with duty bearers in our bid to advocate for the rights of persons in consensual union. We engaged with the judiciary, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and also the Attorney Generals Office. A memorandum on Consensual Unions was presented to the Attorney General's Office as input into the draft bill on spousal property rights. Our advocacy focus therefore has been to strengthen the language, provide research information to inform the memorandum to the bill and also for consideration of a legislative instrument to the law in future.

European Union Governance Programme

The European Union Governance Programme entered its second year in 2007. Under the programme this year, we lobbied and advocated for increase in number of women ministers, enforcement of Tema Municipal Assembly's bye laws, Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Representation on Gender Equality Sector Group (GEST), and for the engendering of the Ghanaian birth certificate.

Canadian Cross Roads International

WiLDAF Ghana entered into a partnership with Canadian Cross Roads International (CCI), a Canadian based organization. The partnership with CCI allows WiLDAF Ghana to choose and partner with another Canadian organization. This will lead to exchange programmes between WiLDAF Ghana staff and staff of the selected Canadian organization to enable the two organizations learn from each other. WiLDAF Ghana has selected an

organization, the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) and their executive Director would be visiting WiLDAF Ghana in March 2008.

The CCI partnership has enabled WiLDAF Ghana to benefit from the services of skilled interns from Canada. Three interns from CCI have been assisting WiLDAF Ghana with development of web based legal information, communication systems, and a documentary.

Fund Raising

In view of limited funding from Action Aid this year, WiLDAF Ghana wrote a lot of proposals aimed at raising extra funds for its projects. We were able to get some money from Global Fund for Women, Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme and the African Women's Development Fund.

Key Impact

- Our consensual Union project yielded great results. One of our outcomes for the project was to see a change in legislation where the rights of persons in consensual union are taken into consideration. WiLDAF Ghana was able to make significant contributions to the draft Property Rights of Spouse's Bill.
-
- The bill makes provision for persons in consensual union as the definition of 'spouse' has been expanded to include such persons. WiLDAF Ghana has also been invited by the Attorney General's Office for collaboration on the road show of the draft Bill of Property Rights of Spouses. We are also on the Steering Committee of the coalition on the Property Rights of Spouse's Bill.

In our bid to work within Districts, we were able to train District Assembly members and other community leaders in the Abura Asebu Kwamankese District in the Central region and Amenfi West District in the Western Region. This is to ensure that we have legal literacy volunteers working within each district and also for the Assembly to accept and own the concept. This also forms part of an exit strategy in case WiLDAF Ghana is not able to continue the project in the districts due to lack of funds

Challenges

-ActionAID Ghana, (AAIG) reduced its support to WiLDAF Ghana and hence the need to also cut down on some of our activities. We have also had to do a lot of fundraising to sustain some of our activities.

Lessons learnt/ way forward

- Our quarterly and annual reports to AAIG covers all other activities that we undertake. We believe that since AAIG gives core grant to WiLDAF Ghana, other activities which we do and which are not funded by AAIG should still be reported to AAIG.
- With the success chalked with the Property Rights of Spouses Bill by the inclusion of persons in consensual union in the definition of 'spouse', WiLDAF Ghana would continue to lobby the A-G's office in 2008 for the definition of spouse in the Intestate Succession Law(PNDCL 111) which is being amended by the AG's office. This is to ensure that the property rights of persons in consensual unions are protected on the death of one of the partners.
- The Legal Awareness Programme office in the Western Region has identified a trend in the Western and Central Regions where marriages are dissolved by one party issuing a 'free note' to the other party. WiLDAF Ghana would therefore undertake a baseline survey of the issue in order to do effective advocacy in 2008.

Plans for 2008

- After many years of implementing the Legal Awareness Programme(LAP), WiLDAF Ghana would engage consultants to do an evaluation of the programme. This is to assess the impact of LAP on our beneficiaries and stakeholders and to identify the way forward.
- We intend to evaluate our work in the implementing communities where we have trained community members on how to collect impact stories.
- WiLDAF Ghana would organize and provide legal literacy training to ActionAid (AAIG) partners in the three Northern Regions of Ghana. (This was initially planned for 2007 but had to be postponed).
- Activities with Moslem women in 2006 have brought up some policy issues that we want to develop in 2008/9.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE



1. PROMOTING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH LEGAL AID AND COURT REPRESENTATION

1.1 Legal Aid Services

In 2007, Legal Awareness Programme (LAP) offices recorded a total of 277 new cases. The breakdown is as follows: maintenance (107), estate (32), domestic violence (26), Custody (19), Marital/Matrimonial (38), divorce (4), Consensual Union (22), others (31). Maintenance is still the most highly reported case even though most of the maintenance cases are reported in combination with other issues such as paternity, children and spousal maintenance among others. The 'Others' refer to defilement and eviction.

The LAP offices mediated on 236 of both old and new cases. 95 of the cases were settled amicably. A number of these cases could not be resolved after several sittings and would therefore be carried over to next year.

LAP received a total of Twenty Six Million Seven Hundred and Thirty Thousand Cedis (¢26,730,000.00) for and on behalf of Clients as maintenance awards and other reliefs.

The Legal officers continue to represent our clients in court and forty one (41) new cases were referred to the courts this year.

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Due to the number of cases received by the offices on maintenance, LAP will collect data and make an analysis of such data for its advocacy work at national level on child maintenance.

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In 2008, WiLDAF Ghana plans to engage in more policy work by using data captured from the legal awareness programme. Some of the policy engagement work would be establishment of child panels, ending the use of Free Notes to dissolve marriages and child maintenance.

1.2 Impact Stories

Forced Marriage: is one of the forms of domestic violence which has received little attention. This could be attributed to the fact that it occurs mostly in the northern parts of Ghana and also because majority of the victims are ignorant of the fact that it is against their fundamental human rights. Mariata Mohammed, a

17-year-old girl and a second year student in Ahantaman Secondary School was being forced into marriage by her father Alhaji Mohammed Abdul. The father was marrying her off to one Mohammed, a 25 year old man who resides in Canada. Client was therefore being forced by the father to marry Mohammed so that she will join him. Mariata reported the case to the office on 27th April 2007 when all her extended family members were against her wish of not marrying the young man. After mediation, Mariata's father showed regret for his actions, pleading with Legal officer that such an issue will not occur again.

Divorce: On May 10 2007, the Cramer and Cramer divorce case which was inherited from LAP/ Ho in 2006 was settled. The Petitioner (Mr. Clement Cramer) who was guilty of bigamy had contracted 3 marriages without the consent of the spouses involved in the first customary marriage and the second ordinance marriage. After months of battling it out in the Cape Coast High Court, the petitioner who claimed to be a Pensioner offered to pay ¢5,000,000 to the Respondent (Mrs. Sarah Cramer) but our lawyers refused that offer. Our argument for a higher award was centred on Natural Justice, Equity and Good Conscience as building blocks as far as the property rights of the spouses were concerned. The marriage was annulled and a compensation of ¢20,000,000 was paid to the Respondent, our client.

Divorce and Compensation; Esenam Dzeketey vs. Samuel Dzeketey

Following the respondent (Samuel Dzeketey)'s refusal to honour LAP's several invitations to mediate in the case in which the Applicant (Esenam Dzeketey) alleged instances of domestic violence by her spouse Mr. Dzeketey in their marriage and in which pastors and other prominent people intervened to no avail leading to their separation for 5 years, Applicant finally instructed LAP to proceed to court. A divorce petition was therefore filed on the 26th of July 2006 seeking dissolution of the marriage, compensation in the sum of 25 million Cedis, custody of the child, maintenance of the child and the return of petitioner's items in Respondent's possession. The case has finally come to an end. The judge ruled in favour of the Applicant. He awarded the Applicant 20 million cedis compensation plus 400,000 monthly maintenance allowance for the upkeep of the child.

Domestic violence: has been very prevalent in marriages, especially the customary marriage because majority of the people in Customary Marriage are illiterates and semi-literates who have little knowledge regarding their human rights. However, the incidence of domestic violence in ordinance marriages is on the increase.

Mrs. Sarah Assumah has been married to Mr. John Assumah under the Marriage Ordinance for four years. Mrs. Assumah, who is our client claims that she found out that the husband was a homosexual when his pen pal from Germany arrived in the country. It was after our client caught her husband with the white man in bed that he begun to abuse her physically and sexually. He started having anal

sex with her and stopped maintaining her. The husband further stopped her from working although she has an HND Certificate in Home Economics. He later accused client falsely of having an extra marital affair and divorced her under customary law by paying her a compensation/lumpsum of ₵5,000,000. Our client, out of anguish and frustration sought the assistance of LAP. The case has been sent to court for proper annulment of the marriage and better compensation since they acquired a joint property of 3 cars, a workshop and a house.

Mediation yield results

As a result of 3 mediation sessions held on 22nd, 29th March and 8th May respectively at LAP office in the case involving one Comfort Goku (Applicant) and John Ahadzi, a fetish priest (Respondent), the Respondent was convinced to start maintaining his four children by Applicant.

In April, even before the end of the mediation sessions, Respondent gave Applicant an amount of ₵100,000, a bar of key soap, 2 bowls of maize and a bottle of Paracetamol syrup as his contribution to the upkeep of the children.

At the end of the last mediation session in May, respondent gave ₵130,000 as maintenance allowance for May, ₵60,000 as a refund of Applicant's transport costs, ₵20,000 for detergents, and 2 yards of cloth to the Applicant and has promised to continue giving same. Both parties also agreed to a shared custody of their four children; whereas the older ones would stay with their father, the younger two (2) would live with their mother. Both parties have however been advised to go back to the traditional authorities in their community. The situation is being monitored.

One major impact of the LAP office's outreach programmes in 2007 occurred when a LAP team visited Toh-Kpalime a farming community in the Volta Region. After a community discussion on child maintenance and child trafficking, a 14-year-old Mawunyo (full name withheld), who had dropped out of school, offered himself to a Legal Officer for counselling. He eventually returned to school on that same day after he was counselled on the benefits of attending school.

2. EMPOWERING OUR WOMEN THROUGH LEGAL EDUCATION



The CDO for LAP Western region, Mr. Justice Blay conducting Public legal Education in the Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese district of the Central Region

2.1 Linking the Legal Literacy Volunteers (LLV) and Zonal Legal Literacy Volunteers (Z-LLVs) to the Communities

WiLDAF continues to use its legal intermediaries (LLVs) and the pilot Z-LLVs to carry out educational activities in the Mpohor Wassa East District of the Western Region. In collaboration with the Unit Committee Members, Traditional Authorities, District Assemblies, the LLVs visited churches, funeral grounds, adult literacy groups to offer legal first aid to members of their communities.

In order to further motivate the LLVs to do more thereby consolidating the work WiLDAF Ghana, we reduced the number of LLVs so as to give them more incentives, to do effective work.

2.2 Lawyers conduct public education

This year, the Legal Awareness Programme (LAP) team visited a total of 25 communities to carry out educational activities on forced labour, child maintenance, marriage and divorce, inheritance law, HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. Communities visited include, Nkyininkyini, Amewoyikope, Bunda, Banda, Borai, Dambai, Tokoroano, Kplesu, Pai-Katanga, Kudje, Okadjakrom, Tapa-Amanya, Kute, Kadjebi, Kpetoe, Adedome-Kpetoe, Dzemeni, Tokpalime,

Tegbi, Mpatado, Asankragua, Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese, Ampatano, Fijai, Hemmakrom.

They also carried out educational activities with specialized groups such as Women's Fellowships in Churches, the Navy, Tailors and Dressmakers, Hairdressers and Barbers, Christian Mothers and Fathers Associations among others.

In order for our Lawyers to concentrate on providing legal services, we have decided that from 2008, the public education would be fully taken over by the Legal Literacy Volunteers (LLVs). The Legal officers would give them back-up support.

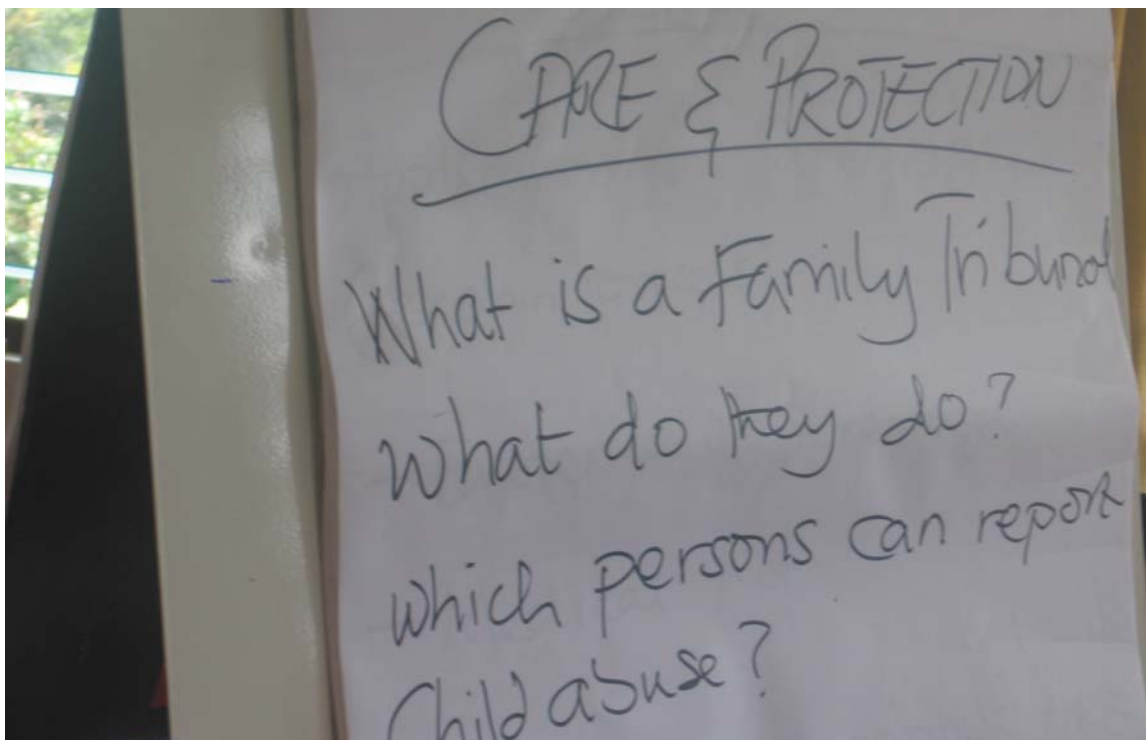
2.3 WiLDAF Media Alliance

Drawing from our media strategy in 2006, we continued with our work with the media in 2007. The secretariat had received calls from some radio stations and sections of the print to media to provide clarification on a wide range of issues.

The Western Region office continues to support discussions on legal and social issues on a popular radio programme "Mbenyi Ntsie", - a weekly programme on Spice FM in Takoradi. Our officers in the Western Region were also on Kyzz FM in Cape Coast and Uniiq FM in Sefwi Wiaso to talk about domestic violence, abortion and prostitution.

These media outreaches provided opportunity for mobile legal aid at the premises of the media houses after the programme as many people after the radio discussion flock to the station to seek legal aid from the legal officers. In the Volta Region, the Legal Awareness Programme (LAP) team in Ho supported two Legal Literacy Volunteers to do a radio outreach on Volta Premier Radio and Jubilee FM in Ho and Keta to discuss marriage and inheritance laws.

3.0 BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF OUR WOMEN



This year WiLDAF Ghana was involved in various programmes aimed at building capacity of our Legal Intermediaries (the Legal literacy volunteers), network members and other organizations.

3.1 Training Legal Literacy Volunteers (LLV)

WiLDAF trains 30 paralegals with the Abura Asebu-Kwamankese District Assembly

In line with our Legal Rights Awareness expansion drive into the regions, WiLDAF Ghana with support from the Global Fund for Women trained 30 Legal Literacy Volunteers from the Abura Asebu Kwamankese District in the Central Region. Participants were made up of assembly persons, educationists, social welfare personnel, and some other community leaders.

Zonal Legal Literacy Volunteers trained at Amenfi West District

In November 2007, twenty (20) community volunteers in the Amenfi West District of the Western Region also received skills training from the Legal Awareness Programme (LAP)

Areas covered during the training session include Domestic Violence, Children's Act, Marriage Laws, Administration of Estate and PNDC Law 111. The District Chief Executive Officer(DCE) who was present at the workshop commended the programme with the promise to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for future collaboration with WiLDAF Ghana.

3.3 WiLDAF assists other NGOs to train Cadre of Legal Literacy Volunteers

The training of Legal Literacy Volunteers (LLV's) for other organizations in different parts of the country had in several ways introduced the activities and programmes of WiLDAF Ghana to many communities in the country.

Within the third quarter of 2007, two Lawyers from WiLDAF visited Bawku in the Upper East Region to train Legal Volunteers on family laws. WiLDAF in the final quarter of the year,also held review training meetings for some selected Legal Volunteers from the three northern regions where the Participants were taken through new laws like the Domestic Violence Act.

Under a contractual agreement with the Hunger Project Ghana, WiLDAF Ghana, was able to address certain legal and women's rights issues on the family laws, leadership and human rights within the Ga-Dagme District in the Greater Accra Region.

3.4 Training for WiLDAF Network Members

In line with the objective in our Country Strategic Plan (CSP I) to build the capacity of the Network Members, WiLDAF Ghana organized a human rights education training session for network members. Participants were trained on human rights principles and treaties, women's rights and selected family laws.

3.5 CSOs in Sierra Leone Trained on CEDAW Shadow Reporting

In February 2007, WiLDAF Ghana was contracted by Catholic Relief Service (CRS) to organise a capacity building training for selected Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Sierra Leone on Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This was to prepare the Sierra Leone team on how to gather information to produce a shadow report to CEDAW.

CSO's in Sierra Leone were able to produce a Shadow Report to CEDAW and 10 of the participants were in New York, United State of America to present the report to the CEDAW Committee successfully.

The training offered an opportunity for WiLDAF Ghana to market itself to some participants who had not heard of WiLDAF Ghana.

We realized that having a workshop for all stakeholders to produce a shadow report was helpful as stakeholders had the opportunity to table their issues and agree on what should go into the report. This is different from the Ghana situation as we had a few NGO's meeting and sharing the roles.

3.7 Moving Forward

Expansion of the Zonal Legal Literacy Volunteers (Z-LLV) concept

In the year 2008 we would continue our work with selected District Assemblies by training personnel of the Assemblies to work as legal volunteers. This is to ensure that the Assemblies own the concept and are able to work on their own even if WiLDAF Ghana is not present in the area. LAP will therefore identify and collaborate with District Assemblies in the Volta Region in order to train zonal Legal Literacy Volunteers. The LAP in Western Region would go back to the Assemblies they have trained in 2006 and monitor them by way of an evaluation.

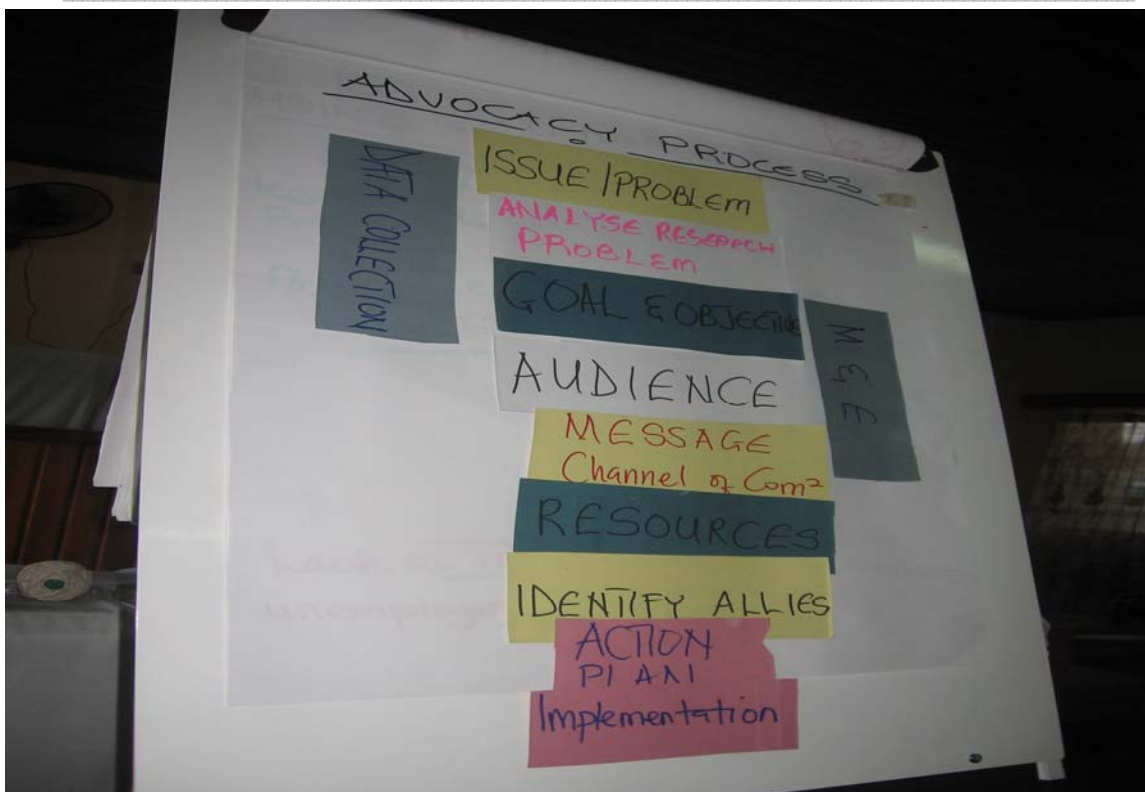
Online resource centre

We would also build an Online Legal Resources Centre. We would simplify the family laws of Ghana and post them on the website in 2008.

Paid Seminars

As a way of internally generating funds as well as fulfilling one of the objectives of our Country Strategic Plan, WiLDAF Ghana plans to organize fee paying workshops on inheritance and other laws for those who can afford, and use the proceeds from same to offer free service to those who cannot afford same

4.0 EVIDENCE BASED ADVOCACY FOR CHANGE



4.1 National Advocacy/Campaign

a) Domestic Violence Act

WiLDAF Ghana, as part of the Domestic Violence (DV) Coalition participated in the various meetings and activities planned by the Coalition in the early part of the year to ensure the speedy passage of the Bill into law. WiLDAF Ghana as well as the DV coalition used the 'Faces of Violence' (the initiative of WiLDAF) pictures in outreach education programmes on domestic violence.

WiLDAF Ghana and DV coalition also engaged with Parliament. The National Programme Coordinator did a presentation on domestic violence, using the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Commonwealth Plan of Action (CPoA) as the basis to justify the passage of the bill into law.

The Domestic Violence Act was passed in February 2007 after years of advocacy, lobbying, campaigning and engagements with the government, parliament and other stakeholders.

WiLDAF Ghana will work with other stakeholders to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act.

b) Promoting the rights of persons in consensual union (cohabitation)

This year activities on the Ravi project that focused on protecting the rights of partners in Consensual Union took the form of advocacy and engagement with duty bearers.

WiLDAF Ghana's involvement in activities of Government on Property Rights of Spouses Bill

WiLDAF Ghana met with policy makers and presented a policy brief/memorandum on consensual unions/cohabitation to the Attorney General to input into the proposed property rights of spouses bill, which is in its drafting stage. We also presented to the AG, copies of the research and case studies of the challenges confronting Persons in Consensual Unions and to get commitment on the need to address these.

Activities so far

- WiLDAF Ghana was invited to give a presentation on Consensual Unions at the official launch of the Property Rights of Spouses Bill.
- WiLDAF Ghana was invited by the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana to make a presentation on its work on women's access to justice at a meeting of Judges from West Africa.
- Chief Justice requested information on Access to Justice for Women from one of our partners (LAWA Ghana). LAWA Ghana contacted us, and we sent to the Chief Justice a policy brief on the subject that we had done for the National Development Planning Commission.
- WiLDAF Ghana organized a seminar for its network members on the draft property rights of spouse's bill. A presentation of the bill was made by the Director of Drafting Department of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney Generals Department. Network members and others present asked a lot of questions and raised issues on the bill in relation to cohabitation.

But these achievements did not come on a silver platter. We had to protest to the Attorney General when we realised we had been left out of initial discussions and meetings on the property rights of spouses bill. This was useful as we then became visible and got recognition from MOWAC and the A-G's office.

Our advocacy on consensual unions, in particular law reform, has advanced quite well with the introduction of the Property Rights of Spouses Bill. The Bill has a provision on consensual union. Our advocacy focus therefore has been to strengthen the language, provide research information to inform the

memorandum to the bill and also for consideration of a legislative instrument to the law in future.

4.2 International advocacy/Campaigns

a) 16 Days Campaign 2007

During the 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence, WiLDAF Ghana had 2 Radio Programmes on Kyzz FM on the 26th of November, 2007 in Takoradi. Issues discussed included sexual violence at schools and workplaces and what the law says about harassment.

We also provided funding to two of our network members – The Fataale Group of Korle Gonno and Virtuous Women of Abokobi, to hold two public fora on the Domestic Violence Act 2007. The first forum attracted over 200 participants from Kokrobite and surrounding villages as well as communities around Korle Gonno and Agbogbloshie. The second forum was held for young women in Abokobi and attracted over 50 participants.

Both fora shared and dialogued with participants' issues related to Domestic Violence in the Ghanaian context. They discussed the contents of the DV Act 2007 and where to seek redress and challenges to implementation

b) 51st Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Two staff from WiLDAF Ghana attended this year's Commission on the Status of Women Session in New York on the theme '*Eliminating all forms of Discrimination against the Girl Child*'. WiLDAF Ghana participated and made two separate presentations. The first was at a Commonwealth caucus to discuss Financing for Gender Equality and Development which was the theme for the 8th Commonwealth Women Affairs Ministers Meeting scheduled for June in Uganda. The 2nd presentation was more of a sharing of country specific experiences. The Ghana experience was shared on the Domestic Violence Bill, lessons learnt and the way forward.

c) International Women's Day

This year's International Women's Day was celebrated in Ashaiman near Tema. This was one of the immediate follow up to the decentralised training organised in the Tema Municipality under WiLDAF Ghana's Governance Programme. It was successfully organised by the Ashaiman caucus of the Coalition of women in governance.

The global **theme** for the celebration was "***Ending impunity for Violence against Women and Girls***" however the national theme was "***Women's Contribution to 50 Years of Independence***". This national theme was chosen

in line with Ghana's 50 years of independence and the role women have played in shaping the country's socio-economic and political agenda.

Participants were educated on the domestic / gender violence as well as international/national laws that were in place to protect women against abuse. They were also educated on the importance of the newly enacted Domestic Violence Law. The platform was used to also raise the hope of women and more importantly encourage them to be proactive in their demand for equality in all spheres of endeavour.

The impact of the celebration was very significant as participants were enlightened on the Protocol on Women's Rights as well as the Domestic Violence Law. There was a small exhibition of pictures on Domestic Violence which was an effective catalyst for discussions. Discussions led to an emerging issue for us to take up some education on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), HIV/AIDS and to extend our legal rights education to Tema and Ashaiman Communities.

Additionally, WiLDAF Ghana published an Article on the theme of IWD in the Ghanaian Times of 16th of March 2007. The article written on IWD also created awareness of the IWD theme to the general public

d) The 41st Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights

Staff of WiLDAF Ghana participated in the opening session as well as some public sessions during the 41st AU Commission's Session held in Accra, Ghana. Bernice Sam, National Programmes Coordinator for WiLDAF Ghana made a statement on behalf of WiLDAF Ghana and the sub-regional Office in Togo. The statement was made right after the report from the Special Rapporteur on AU Women's Protocol.

e) WiLDAF Ghana discusses the Africa Union (AU) Women's Protocol – 15th May 2007

Over the last 3 years, WiLDAF Ghana has consistently advocated for the ratification of the Africa Union (AU) Women's Protocol. We have had seminars for media persons and civil society organisations on the Protocol. In particular, we have published news articles on the Protocol during commemoration of international women's events such as International Women's Day and African Union Day for Women.

Now that the Protocol has been ratified, there is the question of its implementation and way forward for government and CSOs. To do this

effectively, a round table consultation brought together women's groups, civil society organizations, Members of Parliament, Government Agencies amongst others to discuss and strategize for the implementation of the protocol in Ghana. The event took place on the 15th May 2007 at the Coconut Grove Regency Hotel in Accra. The meeting formed part of activities by Civil Society Organisations preceding the AU Commission's meeting in Accra in May 2007.

Participants at this meeting examined Government's commitment to gender equality within the framework of the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and the AU Protocol on Women's Rights and also strategized for the way forward after Ghana's ratification of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights.

In the end, participants (CSOs, Government Agencies and members of Parliament) committed themselves to support the implementation of the Protocol. Participants came up with an action plan for implementation. It will be a means of having various focal persons in their institutions for information dissemination and to strengthen our networking. We noticed that in trying to address some issues in the Protocol, other national concerns were also addressed.

We also learnt from the best practices of the other West African regions through the experiences shared by the West Africa Sub-Regional Office of WiLDAF Ghana.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE REPORT



5.0 MAKING SURE OUR WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN OUR YOUNG DEMOCRACY



This year, the European Union sponsored Governance project continued. It successfully carried out a number of projects with emphasis on its lobbying and advocacy activities.

5.1 European Union governance project Trainings

Two ten-day capacity building workshops were organised for civil society organizations and some assembly members in the Tema Municipality and Mpohor Wassa District in the Western Region during the first and second quarter of 2007. Participants included Christian Women Associations, Muslim Women Associations, Youth Associations, Traders, Farmers and Fishermen's Associations. Two queen mothers of Tema and Kpone Traditional Council also attended the workshop. In all 48 people benefited from the training.

The aim of the workshops was to build capacity of participants in the area of women's human rights, good governance, planning, programming, budget and gender budgeting. Participants were also educated on lobbying, advocacy, coalition building and networking. They will use the knowledge gained to

influence policies and programmes implemented by authorities to improve conditions of women and girls within their districts.

Impact: A Coalition known as Coalition of Women in Governance (CoWIG) has been formed out of the trainings. The coalition has been able to work on some policy issues identified after the training (see section on Advocacy and campaign). A training manual which was developed for the project has been finalized and printed.

5.2 Lobbying for increase in the number of Women Ministers of state

As a result of letters written to the President to 'walk the talk' of its affirmative action guidelines set out in its white paper, a cabinet reshuffle in July 2007 saw a significant increase in the number of Women Ministers. On 30th July 2007 when the President swore in his new Ministers, six of them were women, three more than the previous mark leading to a 100% increment in the number of Women Ministers. We believe that this is an outcome of our lobbying for affirmative action.

5.3 Lobbying for the enforcement of Tema Municipal Assembly Bye-Laws

CoWIG Tema aims to make the Tema District Assembly effective through the enactment of enforceable bye-laws and gazetting same. In line with this the Coalition set out to document the procedure for making bye-laws and gazetting same. A draft of the procedure for making bye-laws was put together in July 2007.

5.4 Lobbying for CSO Representation on Gender Equality Sector Group (GEST)

One of the priorities of actions adopted by the National Coalition of Women in Governance (CoWIG) was to lobby for CSO representation on the Gender Equality Sector Group (GEST). A series of interactions with donor agencies and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC) have resulted in GEST accepting a representation from CSOs. Ms Adwoa Sakyi of GAWU of TUC has been nominated by the Network of Women's Right (NETright) as the CSO representative on GEST.

5.5 Lobbying for Scholarship and Monitoring Visit to Mpohor Wassa

CoWIG Daboase is also lobbying for scholarship for the girl-child as a way of improving girl-child education in the Mpohor Wassa East District. The National Programmes Coordinator, the Programme officer for Governance and some CoWIG (Daboase) members paid a working visit to the District on 25th September 2007. They met the District Chief Executive (DCE) at his office and

presented this issue which he readily accepted. The DCE recommended that the Assembly Members in CoWIG, table a motion at the assembly's meeting for the issue to be discussed.

5.6 Affirmative Action Policy

WiLDAF Ghana/CoWIG has sent a Letter to the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment for copies of the policy document on Affirmative Action and its supporting memorandum so as to enable the Coalition become abreast with the provisions of the policy and create awareness on the document.

The action is to commit the government to implement provisions for women's representation in government and other decision making bodies particularly at the local government decision making level

5.7 Lobbying for Engendering the Ghanaian Birth Certificate

The inadequacy of data on the mother of a child on the Ghanaian birth certificate raises concerns about gender equality. WiLDAF Ghana/CoWIG organized a forum to lobby the Births and Deaths Registry to engender the birth certificate and also to improve on the general administration of birth registration in the country. Prior to the forum, a brief baseline study was conducted on the existing birth certificate; the findings were presented to the participants and the Officers of the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

The officers of the Birth and Death Registry who were present at the forum appreciated the effort by WiLDAF Ghana and CoWIG and promised to input the recommendations into the proposed new birth certificate in 2008.

5.8 Public Forum to promote women's participation in Local Governance

The Legal Awareness Programme offices in both Ho and Takoradi collaborated with ABANTU for Development and organized a one-day public forum each on women's participation in local governance. The overall aim of the workshop was to advocate for the opening up of the local government system for more women's involvement.

It was also aimed at sustaining the interest of women in local governance, and to advocate for the effective implementation of the affirmative action policy on 50/50 representation for the appointment system. Present at the forum were newly elected District Assembly Women who shared their experiences and reflections on how they won the elections, what they did well which contributed to their success and the challenges of Assembly Women with the other participants.

Participants who contested but did not win also reflected on why they were unable to win the district assembly elections, what went wrong, what they would do better next time round.

6.0 WILDAF'S WORK INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY

6.1 WiLDAF presents research report to the Law Reform Commission and Attorney General's Office

Copies of the research and case studies reports were officially presented to the AG At the Law Reform Commission we were informed of similar studies that had been carried out by the Commission on inheritance rights. We were also informed that various women's rights laws were under review. These reviews were before cabinet. We were informed by the AG's office that following discussions by various actors on the Property Rights of Spouses Bill, the provision on consensual unions had been modified to 'cohabitation' instead of 'common law' marriage

Deputy Attorney General was grateful for the research reports and the policy brief, stating that these will assist to refine the property rights of spouses' bill. He requested for more copies.

6.2 Policy Brief/Memorandum to Property Rights of Spouses Bill

We have prepared a policy brief/memorandum to the Attorney General proposing that the provision on cohabitation/common law marriage in the bill on property rights of spouses be strengthened.

6.3 Discussions on Women's Access to Justice Dialogues with CHRAJ

We have had discussions with CHRAJ on this dialogue which is an activity that has arisen as a result of our work on consensual unions. As a result of that meeting a concept note has been developed for further discussion with the CHRAJ.

6.4 Meeting with Land Administration Project

At an unrelated meeting with staff of the Land Administration Project, consensual unions and our advocacy on it came up for discussion. We used the opportunity to elaborate on challenges facing persons in consensual unions.

NETWORK ACTIVITIES REPORT



7.0 BUILDING ALLIANCES AND MOBILIZING FOR CHANGE



7.1 Ghana @ 50, Women @ 50

WiLDAF Ghana was part of the three coalitions,- NETright, Women's Manifesto and Domestic Violence (DV) Coalitions that organised a number of activities to mark the Ghana @50 celebration. Events organised included a press conference on the 28th of February to raise some questions about the anniversary and also to announce a number of events to mark the celebrations.

Again WiLDAF Ghana joined in a march organized by the three coalitions to celebrate the achievements of women during the independence struggle.

We had staff and Literacy Volunteers from both Volta and Western Regions who gave various solidarity messages during the forum after the march at the independence square.. The march was mainly to celebrate the contribution of women during the independence struggle, the passage of the domestic violence bill into law, and also to voice out the various concerns that women have in Ghana.

7.2 CEDAW Activities

WiLDAF Ghana organized a forum on the 18th of September 2007 to disseminate information on the outcomes of the 36th Session of CEDAW in August 2006 where WiLDAF Ghana coordinated the NGO's shadow report to the Ghana National report.

The forum also sought to provide information on the mechanisms and processes involved in reporting on CEDAW and outcomes of the 36th Session of CEDAW particularly Ghana's report and concluding comments of the Committee, build consensus on strategies by stakeholders to monitor state compliance of recommendations in the concluding comments, strategize for the next state reports on CEDAW in February 2011 and to discuss strategies for reporting on other international women and gender treaties.

7.3 Discussions on Women's Access to Justice Dialogues with CHRAJ

WiLDAF Ghana this year commenced discussions with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) for a possible collaboration on the women's access to justice dialogues which is an activity that has arisen as a result of our work on Persons in Consensual Union (PCUs). As a result of that meeting a concept note has been developed for further discussion with the CHRAJ and the project has been slated for 1st quarter of 2008.

7.4 The Millennium Development Goals Sensitization Program

WiLDAF Ghana as a member of the MDG coalition collaborated with the MDG coalition to organise a one day forum on Goal 3 of the MDG's in Takoradi on 27th February. Topics discussed included

- Gender Perspective of the MDG (Goal 3)
- Whether and how the MDG are been met in the Districts
- How the MDG can be monitored and evaluated in the District Assemblies

Target Groups included teachers, Directors of Education (District and Regional), Other interest groups, NCCE ,Newly Elected Assembly Members, Aspiring Assembly Members (especially women)

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING REPORT



8.0 STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

8.1 Building internal capacity

WiLDAF Ghana Staff capacity was built in various aspects of human rights and facilitating skills

- a) Canadian Crossroads International, one of WiLDAF Ghana's new partners for 2007 organized various capacity building workshops for its Ghanaian partners (WiLDAF Ghana, Abantu, Prolink-Ghana, West Africa Aids Foundation).
- b) WiLDAF Ghana staff attended workshops in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Kenya and Ghana on Advocacy, Women's rights and HIV, Financial management and leadership.
- c) Rights and Voice Initiative (RAVI) organised a series of capacity building trainings for its grant partners. WiLDAF Ghana staff benefited from these trainings which were on financial management, facilitation skills, monitoring and evaluation
- d) Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme (GRAP) organized a one-week training on Project Management for its Grant partners. Staff of WiLDAF Ghana attended the course which was aimed at building the capacity of grant partners to enable them manage projects effectively.
- e) *Advance Geneva Training Course on Human rights – Geneva*
WiLDAF Ghana's Communication and Advocacy Officer, Ms. Patricia Essel participated in a three and a half week intensive Human Rights course in Geneva. This gave her first hand information on the reform process going on at the Human Rights Council. She also had the opportunity to take part in the various parallel events that took place at the Human Rights Council and also observed proceedings at the Human Rights Council.
- f) *A programme officer Ms. Melody Darkey also participated in the International Human Rights Academy in Holland this year.* The training afforded her the opportunity to apprise herself of the different human rights instruments as well as the regional human rights instruments. She also shared experiences with other participants from different parts of the world.
- g) The National Programmes Coordinator participated in the 2007 International Human Rights Training Programme (IH RTP) in Canada.

8.2 Annual Staff Retreat

The 4th in the series of annual staff retreats was held from 12th to 14th December 2007. This year's retreat was used to carry out a 3-year annual plan spanning 2008 to 2010 in order to be able to attract core funding especially from G-RAP. The occasion was also used to put together the quarterly activity plans for 2008 as per the annual plan. Other administrative matters were also discussed. At his meeting also, some of the old programmes were amended and new programme areas were introduced.

8.3 The New WiLDAF Board

At the end of 2006, the tenure of the existing board ended. New board members were elected made up of prominent women in the Ghanaian society. The new board chairperson is in the person of Dr. Cherub Antwi Nsiah. Several training and orientation meetings were organized for the new board ranging from board governance to financial management. The former board chairperson, Mrs. Elizabeth Q. Akpalu remains on the board as an ex-officio member.

8.4 Board and Network Meetings

Three (3) general meetings of the network were held this year. The annual general meeting was held on the 29th of November 2007. At each of the meetings, members received quarterly progress reports from board and from the secretariat. Network members also shared information on their activities with members. Areas of collaboration between the secretariat and members were discussed at these meetings.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION



9.0 MEASURING THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

9.1 WiLDAF Mid-Year Review

WiLDAF Ghana held a mid year review of all programmes in August 2007. The occasion was used to review our work for the 6-month period, identify challenges, successes, achievements as well as constraints, what worked and what we can do better for the years ahead.

Our country strategic plan formed the basis for the review. Beneficiaries and key partners of WiLDAF including FIDA, CHRAJ, Dept. of Social Welfare WiLDAF Board Members and other network members participated in the review.

The occasion offered the opportunity to assess our performance over the years especially for the 6 months prior to the review in a very participatory manner. The meeting also pointed out very challenging concerns by staff as they rolled out the projects.

The review also gave us information; recommendations (especially from board members, partners and also beneficiaries) that we would use to shape our mid CSP review in the next quarter and also for drawing up our annual plans for 2008.

9.2 WiLDAF Reviews its Country Strategic Plan

WiLDAF Ghana took the opportunity to review its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) in November 2007. This took the form of a one day review meeting which was attended by WiLDAF Ghana staff, network members and other stakeholders. Prior to the review, a Stakeholder's Analysis had been conducted by a consultant. The stakeholder analysis was more of an evaluation of WiLDAF Ghana's work in the eyes of its major stakeholders like Donors, partners, network members, staff, board members etc.

9.3 LAP Evaluation

WiLDAF Ghana plans to do an evaluation of its legal awareness programme. This is to assess the impact of the Legal Awareness Programme (LAP) on our beneficiaries and stakeholders and to identify the way forward

9.4 Way Forward

We would institutionalize this review programme and also ensure that we plan for it early in the year.

AUDITORS REPORT