



Pastoral Civil Society

Quarterly Newsletter of RECONCILE/IIED Programme on Reinforcement of Pastoral Civil Society in East Africa

Issue No 12

October - December 2005

Editorial

We are pleased to present to you the 12th issue of the pastoral civil society

In this issue we summarise programme activities for the last quarter of 2005 and present our plans for the first quarter 2006. Just like in our previous issues we profile Maasai Women development Organisation (MWEDO), a community based not for profit organisation in Tanzania.

We take this opportunity to thank all of you for your great support during this past year. Your interest in the newsletter has encouraged us greatly and we look forward to making even greater improvements in the coming year. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Editor

Overview of Programme News

During this quarter the Programme team met in Arusha to continue with the process of designing the framework for module II of the Generic Training Course on Pastoralism and Policy Challenges in East Africa.

The main objective of the meeting was to come up with a broad framework of module II (coherent, with a beginning, middle and end, as well as content). Explain how module I is organised and how both modules can be linked so that there is a smooth transition of module I to module II.

The three day meeting was used to set dates for the first generic training course for module I to be administered at a cost from MS-TCDC and schedule tentative dates for the second test training of module II which was postponed from January 2006 to April 2006

The Programme organized a two days workshop on Gender and Pastoralism. This was a follow up on consultation that were undertaken by RECONCILE within East Africa on gender and Pastoralism. The workshop provided an

opportunity for participants to give feedback on an issue paper that had been drafted on the basis of the consultation.

The programme has also continued participating in a number of regional functions and meetings with a bearing on pastoralism. Among these were a meeting with Development Cooperation Ireland in Dar es salaam to



Participants at the Gender and pastoralism workshop.

begin preliminary discussions on a proposal submitted by the programme for Phase two of the Institutional Governance Learning Group and mainstreaming the Generic Training Course into local languages, the Kenya Pastoralist week and an Oxfam Workshop on Livestock Trade

A detailed description of each of these activities is found below.

Generic Training Course: Framework for Module II is developed and dates of training planned.

As reported in the last issue of the newsletter the process of designing a generic training course on pastoralism and policy challenges in East Africa has been on going. During this quarter, the Core training team met in Arusha from the 24th to 26th October to prepare materials for module 2 before the second test training.

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The three day meeting was used to set dates for the first generic training course for module I to be administered at a cost from MS-TCDC and schedule tentative dates for the second test training of module II which was postponed from January 2006 to April 2006

During the three days the team was able to:

1. Establish a logical way to move from module I to module II
2. Design an internal structure for module II
3. Fill the structure of module II with the content

The team also agreed on the dates of the first Generic Training Course on module I to be from March 6th to 17th, 2006. Dates for the 2nd test training were also scheduled to be from the 24th to 28th April 2006 while the real first training of the module will be in June 2006.

The programme has also developed a brochure about the training that will be disseminated to partners and development practitioners dealing with pastoral issues who will then form the main constituency to this training

For more information on this please contact John Letai or Alais Morindat on jletai@wananchi.com or MorindatA@mstcdc.or.tz

Programme holds Meeting with Development Cooperation Ireland

In the last issue of the newsletter we reported that phase 1 of the Institutional Governance Learning Group had come to an end and that the programme was developing a proposal to be submitted to Development Cooperation Ireland for funding consideration. A first round of the proposal was developed and submitted to DCI in October. The programme team has also held a meeting with DCI to discuss the initial proposal with a view to submitting a full proposal by March 2006.

During the meeting the programme presented its proposal for phase 2 of the IGLG as well as its plans to mainstream the Generic Training Course on Pastoralism and Policy Challenges in East Africa into local languages. The programmes approach during this phase will be working closely with pastoral civil society organizations in implementing its activities.

DCI on its part gave a strong indication of its willingness to partner with the programme in funding the proposal. It was agreed that the programme should consult widely with its partners and submit the proposal by March 2006 and that the final decision from DCI on the proposal will be finalised in July 2006

The programme has planned to call a partners consultative meeting on this initiative in early February 2006.

We will continue updating you on this in our subsequent issues of the newsletter

(Report by John Letai)

RECONCILE holds workshop on Gender and Pastoralism in East Africa

RECONCILE held a Gender and Pastoralism in East Africa workshop from the 10th to 11th November 2005 in Nakuru, Kenya. The workshop brought together 30 participants from Civil Society Organizations in East Africa. The objective of the workshop was two fold:

1. To contribute to the mainstreaming of gender considerations into the programmes and projects of RECONCILE, especially those related to pastoralism and
2. To generate ideas for the design of a participatory action research and advocacy project on gender and pastoralism in East Africa

The workshop was a follow up to a consultation that was undertaken by RECONCILE within Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania on gender and pastoralism in which most participants at the workshop participated in. The workshop

provided an opportunity for the participants to give feedback on an issue paper that was drafted on the basis of consultation. The issue paper highlighted emerging issues and intends to provide impetus to RECONCILE and its partners to identify entry points for deepening and addressing gender issues in their current Programmes and for developing further work around gender and Pastoralism. The emerging issues identified based on the social arrangements in pastoral communities include: a) gender division of labour, b) access to and control over resources and benefits, c) status, power and culture, and d) indigenous knowledge systems

Even though commendable work is being done to increase knowledge and advocacy around Pastoralism as a livelihood system, a gap still remains in addressing gender issues as an integral part of this effort. The preliminary review of gender and pastoralism issues done mostly by pastoral civil society in East Africa confirms that there is a general acknowledgement that addressing gender issues in pastoralism has proved challenging and that little progress has been made to put in place programme interventions which substantively respond to gender issues in pastoralist communities. Programme interventions that articulate gender issues tend to do so within WID framework- where policies and projects are put in place to benefit women as a separate group.

Understanding gender and Pastoralism is made more difficult by the misconceptions that exist about pastoralism itself both within the context of official policy and even pastoral civil society. Misconceptions about pastoralism have meant that gender concerns within pastoralism are not fully understood and strategies and solutions put in place tend to make the situation for women worse. This is perhaps why there is general absence or minimal representation of pastoralist women realities, voices, perspectives, and priorities in official policy framework.

The situation in pastoral communities throughout East Africa calls for urgent and fundamental policy and Programmes response. Pastoralist typically derive their livelihoods in the most risk prone ecosystems where environmental degradation, deforestation, overgrazing are both causes and consequences of their vulnerability. It is for this reason that pastoral areas throughout East Africa are characterized by endemic poverty, food insecurity, marginalization, poor accessibility to basic social services, and prevalence of conflicts over natural resources.

Pastoral communities are socially differentiated along class, age and gender lines. Gender and age are key organizing principles and an important basis upon which social relations, status, rights and obligations are determined in pastoralist and other communities. These communities depend on a sophisticated system of natural

resource management and social organization based on the principle of complementarity and interdependence. These systems have evolved in response to harsh and fragile environment in which pastoralist live. It is therefore important to recognise the non-homogeneity and the multiple nature of vulnerability and marginalization of the pastoralist livelihood system. An analysis of the existing social arrangement from a gender perspective helps to clarify issues of gender and pastoralism and the opportunities that exist for using policy and programme interventions to address them.

The outcome of the debriefing meeting and the issue paper will be posted on our website

By Eva Malel

News from Our Partners

Oxfam hold Regional Livestock Trade Meeting

On the 2nd of Dec 2005, Oxfam International held a meeting at Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi on Livestock Trade. The workshop was organised as a follow up to one of the themes identified as part of the OI H/ECA Make Trade Fair Strategy workshop held in October 2004 (Livestock marketing theme). A copy of the OI H/ECA MTF strategy can be obtained from lmerrill@oxfam.org.uk or is available at O:\Livelihoods\HECA TRADE\HECA Trade Strategies and proposals.

The meeting brought together representatives from Oxfam affiliates and from partner organisations working on livestock trade and marketing issues from at least three countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania) as well as resource persons working on trade and livestock related issues at a regional level. It is worth noting that a primary Oxfam interest in the Horn and East Africa in particular is that of pastoralism and was the major factor leading to the prioritisation of the livestock as a commodity focus for the Regional Trade work.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish whether or not there is a basis for ongoing collaboration between countries within the region around the issue of livestock trade and marketing. There are a number of options for this which could include one or more of the following:

- Direct linkage into the Oxfam International trade campaign
- Engagement on livestock trade issues at a regional level
- Working collaboratively around common national issues

The main conclusion of the workshop was that Oxfam need to answer more clearly the question of who else is doing what and what our strengths are in relation to existing initiatives, livestock and trade initiatives in East Africa. The next step would then be thinking about what Oxfam could add in terms of advocacy work in these areas. The above outcomes reflect the need for more information about key issues that could be tackled at the regional level regarding livestock and trade.

For more information contact Laura Merrill at lmerrill@oxfam.org.uk

The Third Kenya Pastoralist Week (KPW) is Marked.

We are happy to report that the third (KPW) was marked recently. Kenya Pastoralist week is an annual event organized by CEMIRIDE and sponsored by partners who work in pastoralist areas to celebrate and reflect on pastoralism both as a viable livelihood system and as an economic activity. The Kenya Pastoralist Week has for the past three years brought together pastoralists, policy makers, politicians, civil society organizations, researchers and academicians and Kenyans in general to freely discuss and share experiences about pastoralism. Ultimately the Kenya Pastoralist week seeks to achieve a national policy paradigm shift in favour of pastoralists’.

This year’s event was celebrated from the 28th November to 2nd December 2005 in Nairobi and will be preceded by four zonal campaigns in North Rift, upper Eastern, North Eastern Province and the Southern Rangelands so that KPW advocacy activities are decentralized in the sub regions

Overall aim and objectives:

The overall aim of KPW 2005, whose theme was to ‘Pastoralists’ participation for progress, was to deepen pastoralists’ participation in advocacy on development issues not only in Kenya, but also in the African region. It also intended to highlight the opportunities for pastoralists’ participation in national and regional processes for purposes of realizing sustainable development in pastoral areas.

The Kenya pastoralist week 2005 had the following different forums that were used to highlight pastoralist’s issues.

1. Cultural exhibitions where different pastoralist communities displayed their artefacts for sale and exchange of ideas
2. Regional forum which brought together regional players of pastoralist from Uganda, Tanzania and Mali in West Africa to discuss issues affecting

their people under the thematic papers component in a link and learn kind of experience dubbed sharing between West Africa and East Africa.

3. Children symposium: the pastoralist put forward the plight for their children, especially the need for a curriculum that appreciates pastoralism. This was a forum where children showcased pastoralism from all over Kenya.
4. Reaching out to the pastoralist child, an education campaign for pastoralist’s children of North-Eastern province, KPW 2005 was fundraising for two mobile schools in Wajir District through the cultural gala night.

Papers were presented on the following sub thematic themes: Peace and reconciliation- Economic diversification and opportunities,- Land use and resource management- HIV Aids and pastoralism, and Education and pastoralism.

The thematic papers presentation had three main objectives

1. to raise awareness and gain insight in important aspects of the pastoralist development agenda among pastoralists, policy makers and the wider public,
2. come up with facts and figures to support lobbying for pastoralist issues
3. And to come up with recommendations for addressing the above in the near future.

For more details about KPW or a copy of the report, please contact the KPW Co-ordinator, Yobo Rutin at cemiride@hotmail.com

PROFILE

Maasai Women Development Organisation (MWEDO)

MWEDO is a community based, not-for profit organization established in Tanzania in the year 2000. MWEDO was established with a guiding principle to improve the quality status of disadvantaged maasai women economically, politically and socially through providing advisory services in advocacy, income generating activities, human and education rights to women groups in Maasai community.

MWEDO is based in Arusha, Tanzania and its activities are implemented in the three districts of Monduli, Simanjiro and Kiteto in Arusha and Manyara regions.

MWEDO is a member's based organization whose current membership is approaching 300. The membership is composed of individuals and group members.

Programs and Activities

The four main program areas that are being implemented by MWEDO are:

- a) Human rights and advocacy
- b) Household Economic Empowerment
- c) Public service Development
- d) Cultural Citizenship

Human Rights and Advocacy

The objective of the programme is to empower and raise awareness of Maasai people in human's rights issues relevant to them. The programme will also build women capacity and promote access to vital resources, enhance recognition of women production and development efforts and equitable sharing of benefits in society. It includes advocating for policy influencing and freedom of expression.

Household economic Empowerment

To strengthen the linkages between women rights and economic empowerment, MWEDO supports activities that emphasize the role of family in community development. The focus is to transform the present household economics by empowering women to participate equally in all channels of production and decision making that relate to income generation projects and sustainability of household livelihoods.

Public Service Development

The program aim is to promote participatory planning and analysis for public services such as education, health and water. It will identify practical options to sustainable development through participation of maasai community in development issues that provide opportunities and increase their contribution to the development process of the country.

Cultural Cizenship

The program presents overwhelming evidence, carefully documented and organized events of Maasai culture, and show its potential validity and usefulness: example that of indigenous knowledge and its utility to human development. Likewise the Arts that is going beyond opera house or gallery. It is meant to encourage cultural mapping in development and provision of opportunities without hindering the good traditions and people of their culture.

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