



# National Women Association for Social and Educational Advancement (NWASEA)

## Follow-up Monitoring meeting Report

Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. 2017

# At Sub County headquarters of Bukanga Luuka District

## **Brief Background of the activities conducted**

The **overall goal** of the meeting is to discuss the progress of the project and determine the stories of change occurring during implementation.

## **Objectives of the meeting**

- Discussions to measure progress of the progress
- Document the findings of monitoring

## **Methodologies employed during meeting**

1. Participatory learning approach (PLD)
2. Brain storming
3. Group discussions

## ***Nature of Participants***

In Waibuga, a total of 9 Participants (5 female and 4 male) attended and these were selected from all the parishes that form up the sub county of Waibuga. In Bukanga were 4 female and 4 male,

in Luuka Town council were 5 female 3 male. They included area land committee members, traditional leaders, human rights monitors and local leaders.

### **Participants ‘expectations**

- Learn skills in interpersonal interactions.
- Forming advocacy teams and enhancing listening skills to capture important issues.
- Networking within the participants and NWASEA staff

### **Opening Remarks by the Coordinator and learning officer NWASEA**

The Coordinator and monitoring officer welcomed the participants and thanked them for sacrificing their time to attend the meeting. She further thanked them for being cooperative with the organization acknowledging the efforts made by the mobilizers of the sub Counties.

The coordinator asked the participants to take the meeting seriously because their output after this would show the communities that they would be able to access justice and know where to run when faced with a land dispute or conflict situation.

She told everyone to be free to interact and share what they know and thus officially opened the meeting.

The meeting kicked off by each participant sharing their land dispute issues. They shared stories as follows;

1. **On Local council courts;** most cases reported on this quarter result from inheritance disputes in the 3 sub counties in the project area also spilling over to other surrounding sub counties. Misunderstandings between family members and relatives. Some are old cases referred to the sub county from LC1 and LC11 land courts. LC court members shared that this quarter they got more cases than the previous because of the level of awareness people are getting from radio sensitization, radio talk shows, jingles and mouth to mouth propaganda. The courts have been able to go deep into the cases during investigation and testimonies of witnesses such as elders to prove ownership of a disputed piece of land. For protection of court members and enforcement of the decisions of the committee, LC courts worked with the police unit based at the sub county. The mediation meetings in the community this quarter have been in 6 villages; Namadope, Namakakale, Lwanika- two mediation meeting, Buwiri and Bulike. In all these mediations the LC court members have played a pivotal role in mobilizing concerned parties to be present and give their opinion on who owns which land.

2. **Traditional and Clan leaders;**

The National Land Policy 2013 recognizes that attempts to redress inequality by out-lawing discriminatory cultures, customs and practices in land ownership, occupation, and use requiring spousal consent in transactions involving family land in the constitution and land Act have not been effective due to failure in implementation and enforcement. The meeting noted that;

1. Women and children land rights have started to come –up but needs more efforts
2. LCs and LC courts are corrupt and therefore need to be overhauled in order for women and children access justice, they said that at every level there is corruption and bribery

3. Clan courts are equally corrupt and they tend to listen to one side and ignore the vulnerable side which cannot pay them any money to rule in their favor.
4. Though the power of traditional leaders in matters of land administration has been restored, they have not been sensitive enough to the rights of vulnerable groups. In Namakakale village the community believed that a woman who owns land would never be respected, culturally it is men and boys who own land in Luuka not women and girls so therefore, this project has come to make a difference and it is difficult for beliefs and customs to change.

In this quarter, traditional and clan leaders were able to do reconciliation for 16 dispute cases recommend community members where they needed compensation, two apologies from husbands who had abused and sent away their wives because they had raised the land question, 25 people have filled in land registration forms, they are at the level of inviting the surveyor to make official demarcations and insert mark stones.

**On Issues and Challenges of women land rights;**

1. Because control over land is mainly in the hands of men in Bukanga sub county, the source of conflict is when a woman sells the crops she harvested, then she will get a beating, it is the men who have to sell and be kind enough to give a little money for upkeep of the home.
2. Women cannot plant sugar cane on land because it is considered a cash crop and a long-term project therefore must be managed by men.
3. It was noted in Waibuga Sub County that though widows may have access to the house, granary, and land, they have no right to sell anything (even a hen or goat) without consulting the heir. Worse still she can never sell any of the land she has access to.
4. In Budondo Village, Bukanga Sub County and other surrounding villages due to land fragmentation, women have to walk long distances between plots of land, resulting in even more pressure on the women's time, and less time is given to agricultural production due to the difficulty of balancing all other household chores.
5. In Luuka town council it was reported that women clear land , do all the agricultural activities, and when the second season comes, the husbands take over the fallow land for cash crops and they are told to clear more land for "their" food crops

6. In Lwanika village women raised the issue of growing crops like cassava, at the time for harvesting they discover that the whole crop has already been sold off without their knowledge.

After lengthy discussions the following were recommendations;

1. There is urgent need for public discussions, more consultations and need to consult women on land issues.
2. LC courts and traditional leaders agreed that they should be consulted before laws on land are passed because they are the ones with land problems and they are the ones who feed the towns.
3. People need to be educated on land tenure system at village level for them to understand and appreciate women land rights.
4. Women too should own land, consent should be sought in cases of land transactions.
5. Women must have a share of land because they contribute to its acquisition- their labor should also be valued.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations;**

- There is urgent need for law enforcement mechanisms to be put in place to follow-up cases that violate women's rights to land and enable them access justice at the local level.
- There is need to sensitize communities such that they change their attitude towards the ideology that women don't own land.
- Women were encouraged to stand strong and be courageous, withstanding, intimidation and negative attitudes towards women who want to be independent and to own property.
- Because marriage does not guarantee a woman's land and property rights, they should be supported to own land through inheritance and as a result of hard work such that they buy and develop their own land.
- Women have user rights under customary land ownership but do not make decisions on land proceeds yet they are the key producers of food crops that keep the population alive and healthy, therefore they should be helped to co-own land with their spouses.
- In respect to family land, members recommended that under no circumstance should a spouse, man or woman sell family land even when they have been coerced, forced or influenced without knowledge of all parties concerned.

- Corruption is rampant in the land sector even at village level, is there a way that these cases can be reduced since LC courts are not facilitated in any way by Government.

**Enable participants develop participatory monitoring tools;**

A draft monitoring tool designed by NWASEA was shared with participants to discuss and make a yardstick or measure progress and if any relevant adjustments are required, it should be pointed out at this stage;

This being the first monitoring and follow up meeting, the participants internalized the tool and gave the following comments;

1. That we should maintain the tool in a simple format that would bring out the key issues in the project progress such that all members can know how to use it effectively.
2. That we maintain the monthly reporting rather than the quarterly for purposes of ensuring that we do not miss out on any activity as per work plan.
3. That dispute and conflict cases take first priority while handling land and property rights for women and children.
4. That when someone misses out on a monthly report should be disqualified and her/his place given to a more competent and interested person.

Members understood that the next quarter requires that they report on the progress of the project and document at least 2 stories of change as a result of the work already done and how much is the community benefitting. So far they reported that the radio has really contributed enormously in the awareness raising, since it is only one hour, they are limited by the time to phone in and give their own version of experience they encounter .

**Document the findings of monitoring;**

Participants after sharing the monitoring tool and made moie contributions to its improvement they agreed to the following commitments;

1. Members should take note of the number of meetings they conduct in the community
2. To record the proceedings in a brief but precise manner, such that they do not lose the meaning of what they want to say.
3. To consult other human rights monitors and move in pairs or threesome.
4. Where the meetings are rowdy in the community get police to keep law and order.
5. They should always inform chairman LC1 so that He or She is present where possible and I not they should delegate someone on the committee to stand in on their behalf.

6. Write down whatever evidence has been pointed out by the community, the witnesses and the community in genera and their opinion on a particular conflict or dispute issue.
7. Share all documented things with the secretariat.