



Grassroots Women's Land Academy

Women's Land Link Africa (WLLA) Report: Grassroots Women Focus on Peer Learning, Exchange of Grassroots Tools, and Action Plans for the Future

By: The Huairou Commission

Date of Report: March 2008



The designation of geographical entities in the book, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Huairou Commission concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Huairou Commission.

Published by: The Huairou Commission



Copyright: © 2008 Huairou Commission

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purpose is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Author: Erica Reade, Edited by Nicole Ganzekauer
Cover design by: The Huairou Commission
Cover photo: Nicole Ganzekauer

| Table of Contents | Page |
|--|-------------|
| I) Introduction to the Women’s Land Link Africa (WLLA) Project | 5 |
| II) Women’s Land Academy 2008 | 5 |
| i) Executive Summary | 5 |
| ii) Land Academy Objectives | 6 |
| | |
| III) Day 1: Grassroots Women’s Land Academy Focuses on Peer-Learning and Exchange of Grassroots Women’s Strategies, Practices and Tools | 7 |
| <i>Community Mapping & Group Presentations</i> | 8 |
| i) LAMOSA, South Africa | 9 |
| ii) UCOBAC & KCCC, Uganda | 9 |
| iii) MWEDO, Tanzania | 10 |
| iv) Group Discussion & Report Backs | 11 |
| <i>Local-to-Local Dialogues & Group Presentations</i> | 11 |
| i) Ntankah Village, Cameroon | 11 |
| ii) GROOTS Kenya, Kenya | 12 |
| iii) Group Discussion & Report Backs | 13 |
| | |
| IV) Day 2: Grassroots Women Sharing of Best Practices & Strategies | 13 |
| <i>Group Presentations</i> | |
| i) Peer Exchange | 15 |
| ii) AFEBEO & Iterambere, Burundi & Rwanda Women’s Network, Rwanda | 15 |
| iii) Ghana Federation of Urban Poor, Ghana | 18 |
| iv) Slum Women’s Initiative for Development (SWID), Uganda | 18 |
| v) Ghana Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation, Ghana | 18 |
| vi) Ntengwe, Zimbabwe | 19 |
| vii) Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP), Zambia | 20 |
| viii) AWARE, Uganda | 20 |
| ix) Women and Land Zimbabwe (WLZ), Zimbabwe | 21 |
| x) Refdaf, Senegal | 21 |
| xi) Group Discussion & Report Backs | 22 |
| xii) Thematic Clusters | 22 |
| | |
| V) Day 3: Making customary and the formal legal systems work for grassroots women and their communities | 23 |
| | |
| Legal Work with focus on Paralegals at the Community Level & Group Presentations | |
| i) Rwanda Women’s Network (RWN), Rwanda | 24 |
| ii) GROOTS Kenya, Kenya | 25 |
| iii) Watch Dog Groups | 26 |
| iv) Seke Rural Home Based Care, Zimbabwe | 26 |
| v) International Women’s Communication Center (IWCC), Nigeria | 27 |
| vi) Chigozie Udemezue, Moderator | 27 |
| vii) Group Discussion | 27 |
| viii) Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda | 28 |
| ix) Legal Aid Uganda, Uganda | 29 |
| x) International Land Coalition, Italy | 30 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| VI) Day 4: Designing the 2nd Phase of WLLA: Confirming Our | 31 |
| i) Group Discussion | 32 |
| ii) Break-out Groups & Report Backs | 32 |
| iii) Group I: New Groups to WLLA - AWARE, SWID, NAKASONGOLA, JWOP, WLZ, Refdaf | 33 |
| iv) Group II: WLLA Partners: Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda Legal Aid, International Land Coalition, Wellspring Advisors | 33 |
| v) Group III: MWEDO, UCOBAC, AFEBEO, LAMOSA, Iterambere | 34 |
| vi) Group IV: GROOTS Kenya, RWN, Seke, Ghana Federation of Urban Poor, Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation, IWCC, Ntankah | 35 |
| vii) Wrap-Up | 36 |
| VII) Day 5: Planning and Coordination for WLLA Phase II: Governance | 37 |
| i) Session I | 37 |
| ii) Questions & Report Backs | 37 |
| iii) Refdaf, SWID, Nakasongola, AWARE, JWOP, MWEDO, AFEBEO & Iterambere, UCOBAC, LAMOSA, RWN, Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation, Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor | 38-41 |
| iv) Session II | 42 |
| v) WLLA in 2011, Changes WLLA is pressing for, WLLA Development, Regional Advocacy, Global Opportunities | 42-43 |
| vi) Day 5 Final Remarks | 43 |
| vii) Conclusion | 44 |
| Appendix 1: Agenda | 45 |
| Appendix 2: WLLA Group Descriptions | 51 |
| Appendix 3: Contact Information | 54 |

WOMEN'S LAND LINK AFRICA (WLLA) PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The Huairou Commission (HC) is working with grassroots women's groups in Africa, as a part of both the HC's Land and Housing Campaign and the Women's Land Link Africa (WLLA) project, to identify innovative on-the-ground strategies and practices that women are using to fight for women's rights to land and property at the local, national, and international levels. The HC recognizes that empowering women working at the grassroots is essential to increasing poor women's access to land, housing and property. As such, we are focused on grassroots women as the initiators of actions and the problem solvers within their communities, rather than as the recipients of legal or financial aid. The Land and Housing Campaign seeks to strengthen the impact of its ongoing work and to deepen grassroots women's roles as partners with multiple stakeholders working jointly to achieve women's empowerment, gender equality and equal access to secure tenure of land and housing. Within Africa, the Huairou Commission is working with grassroots women's groups in ten countries.

The WLLA was founded on the principal that all who are truly dedicated to improving the situation for women's land and housing rights (and to doing so in a manner which is both sustainable and stakeholder-driven) can and must link in complementary ways. Working in isolation has rarely improved situations. In unity there is strength; in cohesiveness, the promise of real change to come. The WLLA does not re-create efforts on women's land and housing rights -- rather it works to support and expand those efforts that are already successful or have the potential for success.

Therefore, what makes the WLLA unique is that it is designed to strengthen already existing efforts, highlighting in particular the innovations at the grassroots which lead to concrete improvements in the lives of real women. The WLLA enhances ongoing work, provides information gathering and dissemination, and facilitates knowledge exchange. This is done through providing resources in the form of materials and information tools, and by linking organizations and grassroots women in an effort to strengthen struggles and strategies. The WLLA further enhances these efforts by providing a direct link to international and regional arenas and mechanisms that may otherwise be out of reach or difficult to access for women's organizations in the Africa region.

The following report provides a detailed and comprehensive examination and description of the rich presentations, discussions and future strategy ideas of WLLA partners and groups. The Report begins with the goals, objectives and plans of the Land Academy. Following this, the Report takes readers through each group's presentation, along with the rich discussion, break-out groups activities and report-backs. Finally, the reports concludes with future-oriented and forward-looking ideas and plans formulated by Land Academy participants.

GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S LAND ACADEMY 2008

The first ever Women's Land Link Africa (WLLA) Land Academy took place from February 4th through 8th in Entebbe, Uganda. The Uganda Community-Based Association for Children's Welfare (UCOBAC) hosted this groundbreaking event in collaboration with the Huairou Commission. There were fifty-five female participants from 31

different organizations¹ and twelve countries, which included Kenya, Senegal, Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, Burundi, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Zambia, Italy and the United States. The participants came from all different levels of organization- from grassroots community leaders and participants, to NGO directors, Land Alliance representatives, and former members of Ugandan Parliament.

Objectives of the WLLA Land Academy:

1. For Grassroots women’s organizations and other participating stakeholders (including NGO representatives, government officials and donors) to check in with each other on the real situation of land and housing rights for African women
2. To allow grassroots women leaders to learn from the tools, practices, strategies and challenges that each of these leaders bring to the table
3. To evaluate these tools and practices in a real way
4. To plan the further work of the WLLA project both individually and collectively
5. To develop a common agenda and advocacy messages

The Land Academy had a strong focus on experience sharing and peer learning. The Academy provided a unique space for community-based grassroots leaders to celebrate and share the important knowledge and skills that grassroots women have been employing to fight for women’s rights to land, housing, property and other core productive assets. Participating groups developed a deep understanding of shared and successful strategies, which they took back to their own communities. This is also important as participants developed a deeper understanding of shared and successful strategies that other women are doing to fight for women’s rights to land and property in their respective communities.

The goal of the Land Academy was for grassroots women’s organizations working on land and housing and women’s issues to come together to share their core issues and practices, analyze their strategies and develop new tools to advance their respective and collective work. Methods were developed for individual use as well as for a collective advocacy campaign to guide further work as a network. Finally, the women came together to analyze and plan how to strengthen the WLLA in the coming years, and to imagine what activities and future partnerships WLLA members wished to engage in.

¹ Ntankah Village Women’s Common Initiative Group, Cameroon; Slum Women Initiative for Development, Uganda Land Alliance, UCOBAC, Nakasongola Multipurpose Cooperative Society, KCCC, AWARE, Legal Aid Project of the Ugandan Law Society Uganda; Ghana Federation for the Urban Poor, Centre on Housing Rights and Eviction, Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation, Ghana; Women and Housing Rights and GROOTS Keya, Kenya; Iterambere and AFEBEO, Burundi; The Huairou Commission, GROOTS International, USA; International Women’s Communication Center, Nigeria; Seke Rural Home Based Care, Ntengwe for Community Development Trust, Women and Land Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe; Refdaf, Senegal; Justice for Widows and Orphans, Zambia; Rwanda Women’s Network (RWN), Rwanda; Maasai Women’s Development Organization, Tanzania; International Land Coalition, Rome; Land Access Movement of South Africa (LAMOSA), South Africa.



DAY 1: Grassroots Women’s Land Academy Focuses on Peer Learning and Exchange of Grassroots Women’s Strategies, Practices and Tools

The day began with Opening Ceremonies that included prayers, songs, and introductions. Women stood by country, and introduced themselves and their groups. Sandy Schilen, one of the founding members of the Huairou Commission and the Global Facilitator of GROOTS International, gave a brief history of the Huairou Commission, and its mission to increase the visibility of grassroots women and their valuable work. Birte Scholz of the Huairou Commission introduced and explained the origins of WLLA and WLLA partnership project. Nicole Ganzekaufer, the Land and Housing Campaign Coordinator, introduced the Huairou Commission’s Land and Housing Campaign and explained how the WLLA is a partnership initiative that is a core part of the HC’s Global Campaign on Land and Housing. She also informed participants that WLLA is to be transferred to an African organization by the end of the second phase of the WLLA joint regional partnership initiative.

Together, participants agreed upon the Land Academy’s objectives and goals, and agreed that Days 1 through 3 would involve the sharing of grassroots knowledge and skills, the strategies employed to fight for women’s rights to land and property, and what the obstacles and positive impacts were of the strategies. For Days 4 and 5, participants agreed that they would determine the best ways to move forward together as a collective movement, instead of individually, and the need for a collective plan to do so. For new members, it would be a time to think about how best to join with the Huairou Commission’s Land and Housing Campaign and the Women’s Land Link Africa joint regional partnership initiative. Finally, the participants discussed and recorded a “Land Academy Basic Agreements Guideline,” that included:

- Careful listening
- Equal time: “No one speaks twice before everyone speaks once”
- Speak slowly & remember translation times
- No put-downs of self or others
- Turn off cell phones & take care of personal needs
- Active participation
- “De-role”-ing: leave titles at the door
- No complaints without recommendations;
- Establishing facilitators

After these basic agreements were established, the Land Academy officially opened with a presentation and welcome speech from one of Uganda’s Members of Parliament, the Honourable Grace Oburu. She spoke eloquently and passionately about the importance of including grassroots women in the governmental Land Bill. Following her presentation, Thelma Awori from the , of Liberia and now living in Uganda, Institute of Social Transformation, spoke of her experience at UN and ensuring that grassroots voices were heard at that level, and the continued importance of making sure women’s voices get heard at all levels. The final speech came from a former Ugandan Member of Parliament, Ms. Miriam Atembe, a woman activist, who spoke passionately about ending government corruption and ignoring women’s contributions and suffering. She called on the Land Academy participants to continue fighting for their rights, as well as encouraging women in power to take a stronger stand on women’s issues. After the Opening Ceremonies, participants discussed two important grassroots strategies - Community Mapping and Local-to-Local Dialogues.

Community Mapping

A community mapping is a participatory process for assessing the situations in a community and documenting the knowledge of community members. They involve members of an organization going through a community in a structured activity format, talking to community members, learning about the needs and resources in the community, documenting the findings, and reporting the findings to community members in community meetings. Community mappings have been used by grassroots women’s organizations and community-based organizations to enhance their activities. They can help organizations provide better services, create and improve linkages with government agencies and NGOs, and advocate on behalf of the community. Community mappings often lead to mobilizing community members and other stakeholders to address community needs.

A grassroots women’s organization should consider using a community mapping when it needs to know more about the conditions and the needs of a community. More information often helps our existing activities, making them more effective. In the past, Huairou Commission members involved in the WLLA project and other grassroots women’s organizations have used community mappings to:

- Build up programs for providing services to people living with AIDS
- Create community eviction watchdog groups
- Advocate for clean water sources
- Implement women’s income-earning programs
- Plan a new community center
- Advance campaigns to stop evictions and harassment

Land Access Movement of South Africa (LAMOSA), South Africa

Emily Tjale from the Land Access Movement of South Africa (LAMOSA) began the series of presentations talking about LAMOSA's 2007 Community Mapping project. The Mapping was undertaken in the rural areas of Modderspruit, Majakneng, GaMoeka, and Maboloka. The goals of the Mapping included exposing and documenting the land inheritance rights and access struggles of women, to strengthen the ability of groups to pursue their interests, to establish access and control over natural resources by women, and to understand the potential for land reform.

LAMOSA, as well as the four communities mapped, found the exercise very informative and revealing, as it was a way for participants and community members to envision new ways to deal with their problems, have their voices heard, raise expectations (simply because mapping took place), and inspire hope that future resolutions of land reform issues could be resolved. The mapping also helped them identify several long term goals and impacts, which included:

- Obtaining title deeds to property to reduce tensions and confusion;
- Possibly creating an organization that brings landowners and tenants together;
- Formalizing a process to enable negotiations between stakeholders;
- Establishing a local advice office tied to reform process;
- A means to provide information;
- Recognizing women's rights as tenants and landowners;
- Having a fair number of female representatives;
- Formally establishing a township and upgrading services;
- Including women on land title deeds.

Uganda Community Based Association for Child Welfare (UCOBAC) & Kamwokya Christian Caring Community (KCCC), Uganda

UCOBAC, the Land Academy's host organization, trained grassroots leaders from KCCC in Community Mapping. As a result of these trainings 30 grassroots women living in the Kawempe district of Kampala interviewed over 300 women during the Mapping process. The purpose of the Mapping was to study and document women's control and access to land, housing and property, and to provide important demographic information and needs-based criteria to government officials, donors and other NGOs to help the community to realize these needs. It was also to identify, document and strengthen the work, innovations, and strategies that women use to fight for their rights, and how community-based responses and local institutions can be strengthened to aid in this fight.

Of the 300 women interviewed, the most commonly-shared characteristic was male dominance over inheritance, property acquisition, and land access. Among the many challenges women face in terms of access, most grassroots women are not even aware of resources, conflict resolution structures or even their most basic human rights in regards to issues affecting them. Among the many recommendations made, several stand out as particularly important. Women should mobilize under a common voice to influence community and national policies to enhance their rights, should participate in decision-making processes at all levels, and be trained to monitor the implementation of land and property programs to be built. It was found during the mapping that 82% of respondents did not know their rights to access, own or control

land and shelter. As a result, women and men, according to UCOBAC and KCCC, need to be educated and sensitized in terms of their human rights, the importance of land and property agreements and titles, economic literacy and family planning.

Both UCOBAC and KCCC found the Mapping incredibly insightful in uncovering the challenges grassroots women face, and the solutions and strategies grassroots women identified. Both groups agreed they wanted to continue mapping further into their communities in the near future, and they wish to start women's rights-based awareness-raising and education as soon as possible.

Maasai Women in Development Organization (MWEDO), Tanzania

Esupat Ngaluwa and Beatrice Nday Wa Mbayo presented on behalf of MWEDO, and informed Academy participants that five community members from each village, Eworendeke, Engikaret, Longido and Kimokowa, interviewed and involved over 400 people in their Community Mapping project. The goals of the Mapping were to understand and document the extent of land and property rights knowledge in Maasai communities and the extent participants wanted to have this knowledge, and to stimulate Maasai women to start vocalizing and demanding their rights and concerns. Land and property rights were identified as incredibly important issues in the Maasai community, as traditionally Maasai women do not own land, and subsequently they face discriminatory restrictions on inheritance and ownership of property or income. As a result of this, women and girls received the most attention during the mapping process as they are the most vulnerable and neglected part of the pastoral communities due to limited access to decision-making and ownership of properties.

The mapping project was received very well by all the participants, and brought great hope to the women in the 4 communities. Both male and female participants identified and agreed that there was an urgent need to correct gender biases by giving women land security as well as income derived from land. Women were eager to impact changes within their communities, and felt it wise to continue with a second year of mapping. Women and men were also eager for education on land rights and information about plot numbers, title deeds and leases. This is because most of the respondents did not have or know what a land title, lease or tenure agreement was, or its meaning and significances. Most of the interviewees did not know the value of such documents, and 75% responded that they would like to possess such a document if available. Community dialogues between men and women followed the surveys, and important issues, contentions and future solutions were discussed.

One particularly exciting result of this Mapping was that men in the mapped communities, including local authorities, took part in community discussions to reflect upon and debate the results that the women produced. As a result of the Mapping and discussions, the men were willing to consider, for the first time, women as property-owners in these communities. As a result of the community mappings, 120 women in three communities have now appealed to their local authorities to grant women letters for land ownership, both collectively and individually, in their names. To date, 90 women have received letters from their local authorities granting them ownership of land [locally recognized]. MWEDO will continue to work with these women to help them document and survey the land that they have been granted and to provide continued support for women who seek title deeds to their land [this is a long and expensive process for which women need both monetary and legal support].

Group Discussion & Report Backs

Following the presentations, participants then broke into small groups to articulate what they had learned from the presentations and returned to a larger group to share the lessons learnt from these eye-opening presentations as a group. Participants agreed that Community Mapping enabled and facilitated the empowerment of women through education on national land laws, that women were able to articulate local issues with regard to tenure security including cultural, social, and economic impacts, and women recognized their own power to change the status. Once land issues were made clear after a Mapping, women could then establish the need for awareness-raising and sensitization workshops and materials, lobby and advocate necessary officials around the issues, strengthen their work together, and develop a working relationship with local leaders and municipalities. In some cases, men let go of patriarchal attitudes, and began to change unequal traditions.

Local to Local Dialogues

Policy making occurs at all levels of government, and it is critical that women's voices are heard from the local level to the national and regional levels. WLLA has identified the importance of women's voices and has worked through local women's organizations to foster dialogues between and among grassroots women's organizations and local authorities and other influence holders/opinion leaders to address women's land and housing concerns.

Local to Local Dialogues are locally designed strategies where grassroots women's groups initiate and engage in ongoing dialogue with local authorities to negotiate a range of development issues and priorities to influence policies, plans and programs in ways that address women's priorities. Successful dialogues enable women to address their problems collectively and build a consensus on their priorities. Furthermore, women's groups gain leverage for negotiation with local authorities, especially when they can demonstrate capacity to manage their projects and disseminate current and accurate information about the issues and challenges they want to address.

Ntankah Village Women's Initiative, Cameroon

Over 283 participants, including grassroots women's groups, traditional, administrative, and municipal authorities, politicians, civil society activists, land administration officials, researchers and students came together from May to August in 2007 to hold local-to-local dialogues on land and governance issues in Cameroon. The purpose was several-fold: to popularize mapping findings, to show the HIV/AIDS and land disinheritance connection, to expose discriminatory traditional practices, to rally women together under a common cause, to improve women's negotiating skills, and to hold local government accountable to their promises and actions.

The local-to-local dialogue process began with mass mobilizations of women around issues of discrimination and land, followed by approaching local authorities informally, and setting up convenient meeting times. Some of the issues presented during the dialogues included: female marginalization; AIDS and poverty, exploitive social relations, food security, land and property rights violations; conflicts with farmers; unsustainable land resource management; poor women under-representation; absence

of women in politics; lack of administrative transparency, and disregard for husband's registered wills at the community level.

The participants expressed very positive results. These included enhanced female empowerment, stakeholders recognizing land rights violations, stronger legal basis for Watchdog groups, increased access to power structures, women's land issues on several political agendas, women elected to several traditional councils, formal gaps recognized, and strategic alliances formed with stakeholders. The dialogues were not without their challenges, such as officials not being accustomed to dealing with grassroots women and the dialogue process requiring several attempted sittings before they took place, overall the group found it helpful to have used local-to-local dialogues because it was imperative to involve grassroots women and key decision-makers from the beginning. It ensured transparent participation as both parties become aware of the advantages from the intended actions, and grassroots women were able to make new contacts and access the power structure. Finally, grassroots knowledge was acknowledged by decision-makers, making them community actors rather than silent, unseen objects of handouts. The group clearly saw and felt several benefits, and called for future dialogues.

GROOTS Kenya, Kenya

The first 2005 Mapping GROOTS Kenya undertook unveiled several land & housing issues, especially asset stripping, in the context of HIV/AIDS. This forced GROOTS Kenya to think about what could work to help women get access to land. They agreed that Local to Local Dialogues were a harmonious way to discuss important issues, bring together the local community, organize around community problems, and map out relevant stakeholders in communities. The process involved women leaders and groups as well as male leaders, officials, and government officials, local council. Their objectives included establishing a platform for harmonious negotiations, documenting women's cases as evidence for negotiations, forming strategic partnerships, giving stakeholders a chance to learn about women's initiatives, and to ensure a commitment and responsibility to what was promised to them by local leaders and officials.

GROOTS Kenya was happy to report several positive achievements that included:

- 1) Raising awareness & holding local leaders and officials accountable;
- 2) More affordable means to achieving interests, as courts take too long. The dialogues paved a road for a wider group of people to work with them;
- 3) Reduced cases of corruption;
- 4) Raised capacity of women to organize, to be powerful, to be knowledgeable. Women were being recognized and being given office as result of their work;
- 5) Quicker settlement of land and housing disputes (one case had been in court for 29 years, but through Local to Local dialogues, the woman was able to get her land).

Though it was clear GROOTS Kenya was making much headway, again, there were some challenges still to be overcome. They often perceived a lack of passion about this issue from some leaders, it was difficult to change perceptions of women's roles and rights to land and housing, and money to travel to hold dialogues was not always available. Most importantly, Local to Local Dialogues cannot operate in isolation, as

there is an obvious and continued need for collaboration with other activities, and a need to support the relation between community administration and women's groups.

GROUP Discussion & Report Backs

Participants agreed that Local to Local Dialogues are a peaceful way of discussing and negotiating land issues and disputes with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. It was found that it is cheaper and more affordable to converse with local authorities than to go to higher levels of government, and this can reduce corruption while also giving women an opportunity to showcase their capacity to change their situations and the status quo. Building stronger partnerships with local leaders and other relevant stakeholders helped to build women's confidence and these meetings increased women's chances to resolve local land disputes as well as to forge new and enhanced relationships between women and important relevant leaders. Women also voiced that they cannot succeed in or work in isolation and that working with local leaders helps them to share and solve problems. Day 1's lessons and discussions were clearly as rich and varied as the presentations and women present. The Day closed with an agreement about Day 2's agenda, and a closing prayer and song.

Day 2: Grassroots Women Sharing of Best Practices & Strategies

The second day of the Land Academy began with a group warm-up, appreciations and wrap-up of the lessons of Community Mapping and Local to Local Dialogues. Everlyne Nairisiae from GROOTS Kenya spoke of the importance of, and difference between, women's access to and control over land. There was agreement that women are able to *access* land, to do activities like farming or producing. The issue is having *control over land*, and this is where women do not have ownership. When a woman has *control*, she can farm and sell whatever she wants, and the ownership helps to reduce poverty, reduce the likelihood of being on the street, and increases a woman's ability to protect her children. Therefore, participants agreed that *documents* were incredibly important for women, as they can act as proof of ownership and as collateral in the banks. Again, obtaining the documents, and obviously the ownership, is another issue, which women are also fighting for. Because of this importance, it is also imperative that women know their rights. Many grassroots women agreed that they need more knowledge about their rights. They do not know which provisions are available to them, and when they do, women are able to argue from an informed point of view, and able to defend their position.



Land Academy participants learned a lot from the presenters during the course of the second day of the Academy. **An expansive and comprehensive list of *grassroots strategies and tools* were highlighted, examples include:**

- Mobilizing youth groups;
- Women's micro-finance programs;
- Radio debates and discussions about women's issues;
- Community level workshops conducted by trained peer educators;
- Production of educational tools, like films, for ongoing peer outreach in the community;
- Dialogues with chiefs at the village level;
- Widows and orphans support groups;
- Reporting cases to relevant authorities;
- Tribunals whereby widows and orphans testify in front of stakeholders;
- Documenting land ownership, marriage and will-writing;
- Sustainable agricultural techniques;
- HIV/AIDS stigma reduction and education classes;
- Confidence-building workshops so that women can stand up in decision-making situations.

Peer Exchange

Grassroots women's organizations place a high value on learning from each other. Often they encounter nongovernmental organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies that discount the experiences of grassroots organizations because they have less formal training and education and fewer resources available to them for development. However, grassroots organizations are the experts on their own experiences and these experiences are often critical to development. It is important to engage the people most directly affected in exploring issues, such as land rights violations, and engaging them directly in the process of developing effective remedies. No one is better at this than grassroots organizations. They are who they serve, so the leaders of grassroots organizations value experience over many other kinds of learning because experience has been at the core of their own development.

Peer exchanges are a learning tool that grassroots women's development organizations have employed for many years to learn from the experiences and practices of each other. A peer exchange occurs when two or more grassroots organizations believe they have something to share with each other that can increase the capacity of all the groups involved in the exchange. They make arrangements to visit one another in order to see and experience how other grassroots organizations approach their work and to share their perspectives on development. It is not a training program, but an exchange of ideas and experiences. Most grassroots organizations that are effective in their communities have developed skills, approaches, and processes for effecting change and creating development in their communities from which others can benefit. A peer exchange is a tool for grassroots groups to share their unique talents and experiences with others and to learn from the experiences of other grassroots organizations.

When a grassroots organization can visit the community of another grassroots organization, it has the opportunity to witness how the development process works in that community and members are better able to more effectively compare the experience of others to their own experience. A peer exchange is ideal for this kind of learning because it is group to group and focused on an agenda developed in collaboration among the organizations involved in the exchange. International events such as those hosted by GROOTS International, the Huairou Commission and other international networks often have sessions where the sharing of best practices takes place. These events bring grassroots women organizations together around mutual development interests and connect the work they do locally to a broader agenda for change nationally and internationally, provide support and incentives for grassroots organizations as they develop their work, and serve as forums where grassroots voices are shared and included in the public development agenda.

Association des Femmes pour l'Éducation et le Bien être des Enfants Orphelins (AFEBO) and Iterambere, Burundi & Rwanda Women's Network (RWN), Rwanda Both Iterambere and AFEBO were new to the WLLA in 2007, and had the opportunity to learn from Rwanda Women's Network (RWN) during their Peer Exchange in July 2007, and Dorothee Banyankirubusa of Iterambere, Edith Rwaso of AFEBO, Annette Mukiga and Annociata Mujawamaria of RWN presented on behalf of their groups.

The Rwanda Women's Network (RWN) is a national humanitarian NGO dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the socio-economic welfare of women and children in Rwanda. The Network came into being in 1997 taking over from its parent organization, the US-based Church World Service (CWS), which had initiated a two-year program from 1994 to 1996 in Rwanda following the 1994 genocide. RWN is a network of 22 grassroots organizations and associations. The NGO provides support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence across the country in the recognition

that women and children bore the brunt of the genocide, and remain the most vulnerable and marginalized groups within Rwanda civil society. RWN caters to women survivors of gender-based violence and other vulnerable groups including widows, orphans and vulnerable children, and people living with HIV/AIDS. RWN has four program areas, provision of health care and support, education and awareness programs on different issues that affect women, socio-economic empowerment and community advocacy and networking.

Iterambere, is headed by Dorothee Banyankirubusa, located in the outskirts of Bujumbura, Burundi, and it is committed to promote women's land rights and to assist those who live with HIV/AIDS. They teach women about their rights to land inheritance, through workshop seminars, and have successfully worked with families to have them accept sharing land inheritance with their sisters. They work to fight AIDS-related stigma, and assist those who endure with AIDS, by donating food and materials to those in need, and providing free care from nurses a few days a week. AFECEO was formed in 1997 initially to aid children traumatized by ongoing conflicts in Burundi. While continuing their focus on orphans and their education, AFECEO has recognized the need to focus on women, who are often caring for orphans, and has found land rights violations to be one of the most pressing issues. AFECEO focuses its advocacy in the province of Ngozi, yet hopes to influence the entire country to take notice and make change for women to realize their housing and land rights.

Over the last two years, the three groups have been strengthening their relationships, and the Burundi groups finally came in July for a Peer Exchange. Rwanda Women Network hosted ITERAMBERE and AFECEO, coordinated by Solidarité Femmes Parlementaires (SOFEPA) and funded and facilitated by the Huairou Commission, for a three days exchange visit from July 9th - 11th, 2007. The exchange visit involved three RWN grassroots partners organized differently and reaching out to different target populations. The grassroots partners visited include Village of Hope & Wicecka association in Kigali city as well as APROGEDEFARWA in Musanze, Northern Province. Wherever the group visited, they went with 1 RWN staff member and the RWN community partners themselves took the lead in sharing their work, strategies, needs and challenges. In each of the sites, there are 20 focal points on women's rights including the right to land/property and inheritance. The Village of Hope (VoH) center was built in 2002 in Gasabo District in Kigali and serves a community of women that have been the victims of rape and other violent crimes. The Village of Hope was constructed from 1999-2000 and is made up of 20 housing units accommodating 20 families with approximately 6 persons per family. The VoH is a community outreach program that initially came into being in 2000 as a housing intervention measure for women survivors of the 1994 sexual and gender-based violence and their families, currently totaling approximately 120 persons. The VoH features a community centre that holistically provides socio-economic, training on different issues that affect women, medical and educational services to residents of the village and the surrounding community. The Village of Hope center is surrounded by family housing units and is a replication of the POH. Before the center's construction women had to travel a long distance in order to access the services of the POH. Without the Village of Hope center, it would have been difficult for women to reintegrate into the new community. The center has become a space that has promoted community cohesion. The VoH currently reaches more than 4,000 persons. APROGEDEFERWA and Wicecka will be described in greater detail in the Day 3 section of this report.

The women from all the participating groups had set out to increase communication and transfer of effective approaches and strategies between the groups; to raise awareness and knowledge of the range of RWN and its grassroots partners activities/programs, specifically in relation to a range of tenure systems, social cultural practices, and institutional frameworks that advance or hold back women's efforts to secure tenure and property rights, and to promote a forum for experience sharing, knowledge and skill transfer and discussions of best practices as well as challenges and lessons learned in relation women's land, property and inheritance rights.

Along with the many activities and workshops that took place during the exchange, the Burundi women visited the three communities of the host groups to see first-hand the grassroots work they were doing. As the Burundi women are new to the WLLA, they were able to see and learn first-hand about the successful tools and methods employed by the RWN. For example, the RWN mapping & documentation model was shared with the group for future reference. They also learned how the women's property and inheritance rights focal groups are organized and how their work is carried out, such as weekly meetings to share success on on-going struggles and strong collaboration with local authorities. The Burundi women also noted that there was a high level of male involvement, Muslim leader support and promotion of women's rights which has been leading to behavioral change, as well as the courage of women who have managed to come forward to speak about the problems they are facing in relation to lack of respect of their rights. The Burundi groups noted these were areas of weakness in their communities, and would need the support of the RWN in future endeavors. The women also learned how community women can be active within their communities without necessarily knowing how to read or write, and the importance of income generating activities as a way to empower women and strengthen their ability to assert their rights.

The Exchange was a considerable success, as the women exchanged lessons and strategies on the process of reinforcing women's property and inheritance rights. The Burundi women felt they were taking home lessons about community mapping, and wanted further and future guidance from the RWN, an interest in being visited by the RWN in the future to assist in mobilizing and training their communities, and learning how to organize around policy advocacy starting from grassroots level to higher policy making bodies. While engagement at the community level is still not common in Burundi, it is a tangible goal and with future support from the RWN, the Burundi women were hopeful about future change.

Ms. Rwaswa, the founder and leader of AFECEO, explained that they had chosen RWN because they have similar issues in post-conflict Burundi, and they have a similar history. Despite the war in Rwanda, the women were very advanced in terms of their women's right activism and land rights activism, and the two Burundi groups valued this aspect of RWN's work. They met fellow staff, and they learned about origins of RWN and their methodologies. RWN informs their communities about women's laws, and they are very dynamic, especially in terms of paralegals. According to Edith, the men were surprisingly sensitized, and RWN has had success getting men to support women. It was across their visit that the Burundi groups learned more about women's rights, and how Rwandan women are familiar with how the laws can help or affect

them. There is little AIDS awareness in Burundi, and they learned how RWN raised awareness on this issue as well through community awareness workshops. After this Peer Exchange, AFECEO saw the importance of embarking on a Community Mapping project.

Ms. Banyankirubsa, a community leader from Iterambere, had a similar experience during the Exchange, saying that she had learned that men were taking a lead in sensitizing other men about only marrying one wife. In Rwandan law, this is not allowed. She appreciated this aspect a lot, whereas in Burundi it is still common to marry more than one wife, have several children but with very little land. As a result of the Exchange, she set out to do the same thing, by making sure women have information about their rights, offer orphan support and ensure that men are sensitized.

Group Discussion & Report Backs

Following this presentation, participants held a lively debate about the participation of men in their struggles. Many women agreed that when their community chiefs / local authorities are men and they support women's rights, this has considerable weight when they speak with other men in the community about women's land and property rights. Other women stated that men's involvement depends on the situation. For example, it is important to talk to both women and men about HIV/AIDS, but it is imperative to focus on women as a target of micro-credit, rotating loan and savings schemes. By the end of the Land Academy, the inclusion of men was listed a strategic tool for advancing women's rights.

The Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor, Ghana

The Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor has been participating in WLLA since 2006. Janet Adu presented on behalf her organization and overviewed their work, including their Community-led Savings and Loans Programs, Community-to-Community Exchanges, and Community-led Mapping and Enumerations. The Savings and Loan Program is a tool used to mobilize women in slums and squatter settlements to meet at regular intervals to discuss and share issues of common interest. They operate on the principle that, "collective savings, collects people." During such meetings, the groups also gather, compile and disseminate information about themselves and their environment. The information from their Community Mapping enabled them to engage with government and city authorities to explore alternatives to forced evictions. The data gathered is also used constructively to plan and implement developmental interventions in Ghana's slums and squatter settlements. As a result of these program's successes, the Federation has been able to influence the national government to change its position on forceful evictions. Janet concluded by saying that through WLLA, they have also gotten much education and training on women's rights to land and housing, so that now women know that they can own houses and not only through their men.

Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID), Uganda

SWID of Jinja, Uganda is a new member to the WLLA joint regional partnership network. SWID community leaders Emily Aciro and Joyce Nangobi taught participants about their multi-level approach to women's rights to land and property, most of which stresses the importance of women's livelihoods. For example, they have started a women's savings club and rotating loans scheme between women to enable them to

make housing mortgage payments and establish credit with banks. They also organize workshops for women in leadership roles, often with local council present, which is important for the recognition of women's rights locally. In addition, they hold Civil Literacy courses so that women can be educated on their rights and further disseminate this knowledge to their communities. Other activities include Business Management where women learn record-keeping, small business management skills, all to improve their income-base which enables women to pay their housing mortgages when the time comes. SWID also has an Environmental Management component, whereby their conservation work is not only about waste management and sustainability, but also income generation for women (jewelry-making from recycled paper). Underlying their work is the persistent challenge to reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma and work with HIV-positive women in their community. According to Ms. Aciro, a Jinja community leader, *"People living with HIV/AIDS see SWID as their only friend."*

Ghana Grassroots Sisterhood Federation, Ghana

Fati Alhassan, the Director and Founder of Grassroots Sisterhood Federation presented another example of a group that takes a multi-level approach to women's rights to land and property. They want to improve women's power and decision making abilities around land issues, because even when women have a presence, they often do not hold or have power. Grassroots Sisterhood Federation aims to build women's confidence to fight for their land and property rights, and change cultural practices that discriminate against girls' inheritance.

Their many strategies include:

- Collaboration with micro-finance organizations to obtain credit for women
- Education of women's rights to land and property
- Lobbying youth groups to change entrenched cultural beliefs
- Community Radio Discussions: Women identify an issue and record it on tape, then edit it together They go to various radio stations, and push to put it on air so that a wider audience can hear issues, and encourage societal debates
- Local to Local Dialogues: women are being organized to talk to local authorities

Even though Ms. Alhassan pointed to a number of challenges, she concluded that their work is improving women's status and conditions. With the dialogues they have had so far, leaders have actually begun to preach equality between men and women's ownership rights. They are also slowly building women's capacity by using tenants of religion that approve of and advocate equality as well.

Ntengwe for Community Development, Zimbabwe

Juliana Muskwe presented about Ntengwe's work on women's rights to legal information and access. Because the Binga district is geographically and culturally isolated and marginalised, access to information is limited. Women and girls have low literacy rates, a lack of involvement in public affairs and there is a general perception that property is a male issue. Even though progressive laws exist, there is a low awareness of their existence, as well as poor implementation of these laws in the Binga district. Therefore, Ntengwe launched their *"Voices for Positive Choices: Property and Inheritance Rights Project."*

The Project's objectives are to strengthen the capacity of women and girls through training and awareness-raising around property and inheritance rights, increase awareness around these rights among HIV-positive women and girls, and to heighten the awareness among community stakeholders about women and girls' property and inheritance rights. Their strategies so far have included:

- Training of 20 women and 20 girls as Peer Educators;
- Community awareness-raising workshops conducted by trained peer educators;
- Dialogues with Chiefs at village level;
- Partnerships with the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Education Sport and Culture, Department of Social Welfare, Local Government and Binga Rural District Council.

Ntengwe was proud to inform participants about their production of an educational tool, "When the Cows Come Home," a documentary-drama used by the Peer Educators in their ongoing community outreach efforts. The film was a success in the eyes of Ntengwe because as it gave community members a chance to learn more about injustices, women's rights to land and the best ways to resolve land disputes.

Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP), Zambia

JWOP presented as a new member to the WLLA, and participants learned from Reginal Mazuba and Beatrice Shakafuswa of JWOP that their mission is to advocate, promote, protect and safeguard the rights of all citizens, especially widows and orphans in Zambia. They do so primarily through their already-established Community Paralegals program. The widows and orphans in their support groups are trained as paralegals, who then become the eyes and ears of JWOP. JWOP also supports widows and orphans through reporting cases to relevant authorities, like traditional leaders or courts.

JWOP also aims to increase access to information through publications, and case study booklets, "Picking up the Pieces of Justice," of widows and orphans that have passed through court and their judgments either is-administered or not and comments from formidable legal practitioners. Finally, their flagship strategy is the holding of Tribunals, where widows and orphans testify in front of stakeholders. Although JWOP still faces challenges such as widows and orphans facing injustices at the local court level and problems of HIV-related stigma, they were happy to present several successes as well. For example, in one of their tribunals, they took traditional leaders from different areas and brought them to the Chilala homestead, heard about the disinheritance case and pronounced that widows should have access to land. Clearly, JWOP has been filling an important gap in the women's rights movement in Zambia by promoting the rights of widows and orphans.

Action for Women and Awakening in Rural Environment (AWARE), Uganda

Grace Loumo, one of AWARE's founders and now Executive Director, and Magret Agilong, a grassroots community leader, presented on behalf of AWARE Uganda, who work to promote and protect women's human rights, as well as to reduce HIV-stigma and neglect of HIV positive people. In order to deal with the many challenges they discussed, such as violence, famine and poverty, and a lack of land documentation, AWARE utilizes several strategies to empower women. They encourage women to be part of a rotating loan scheme as they have found that rotating loans and subsequent economic empowerment enhance women's decision-making power in the household. AWARE also holds dialogues with Local Council. As there is no government Land Officer

in their region, and no support for women to own land, dealing with the Local Councils and community elders has a greater impact in their community. AWARE now has an established space in the Kaabong district, which includes a legal aid office, a women's rights center, adult literacy training, tailoring workshops, and HIV/AIDS support. They have Paralegal aid volunteers, men and women from their communities, who have been trained by FIDA and UNHR, who also funded their training.

They are now starting to see some success from their hard work. For example, women now receive letters from Local Councils to confirm ownership of their land (as formal titles are too costly). Ms. Luomo noted that some men in the community are seeing the gains of rotating loans and subsequent women's independence and empowerment. Grace made it very clear how important it was for women to have ownership to land and property. She noted that when women have property they can use it as collateral to obtain bank loans, which enables them to enhance their small businesses. When rural women are sensitized on the importance of borrowing funds, establishing credit and subsequently, they can enhance their small businesses and subsequently, send their children to school more easily.

Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ), Zimbabwe

Getrude Muzambi, a member of Associated Women Farmers, presented on behalf of Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ), and informed participants about WLZ's goals, which include enhancing women's economic empowerment through access to, ownership and control of land and related economic resources, facilitating long-term support to women in the land and agrarian reform programs and communal land tenure systems, and mainstreaming gender into national and regional policies and legal frameworks that govern women's access to, control and ownership of land.

WLZ implements its programs using the strategies of capacity building and women's empowerment, research and documentation, and advocacy, lobbying and information dissemination. Activities under these strategies include farmer management workshops, awareness-raising workshops to increase women's understanding of their human rights and HIV/AIDS, using documented findings among member organizations and government ministries. Ms. Muzambi noted that an important success was increasing the visibility of women and their rights to land. Although a comprehensive and gender-sensitive national land policy is not yet formulated, there was significant recognition by government, civil society organizations and the general public of the need to update the country's land policies and laws.

RESEAU DES FEMMES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE EN AFRIQUE - Women's Network for Sustainable Development in Africa (REFDAF), Senegal

A new group to the WLLA joint regional partnership initiative, REFDAF's presentation illustrated the scope of their work on land and property. Madjiguene Cisse, a founder and director of REFDAF, explained that her organization works in both urban and rural areas with a focus on women's access to and control over land and property. In Senegal, there are laws that regulate land access, but the problem is that women are excluded as they lack education and information about their rights, and they lack any means to fight for their rights.

Some of the strategies they employ include:

- Information sessions: Senegalese laws stipulate equal rights to land and property;

- Confidence building workshops to encourage women to speak up for their rights;
- Issue-raising and awareness through media-coverage (radio shows, TV interviews, women's broadcast, internet-site);
- Collective Organization & Group Loans: women are able to purchase plots of land in their name.

According to Ms. Cisse, some of the successes of REFDAF's work include having brought women to believe in themselves and in their rights to land. She noted that a major challenge is changing perceptions of women's roles and rights, and that it is an arduous process getting local authorities to think about women as landowners.

Group Discussions & Report Backs

Following the presentations, participants broke out into smaller groups in order to digest and analyze the strategies, practices and lessons learned. They were to discuss the gains of the second day of the Academy, review new challenges facing women at the community level, what strategies strengthened grassroots women's control over land, housing and property, and finally how to group or cluster the strategies discussed. Participants agreed that land was important for women because after the death of a spouse, women could inherit land or property without disputes, property could not be grabbed from them, and it could be used as security or collateral to obtain finance or credit from financial institutions. Participants also agreed that land enhances future planning, and it reduces vulnerabilities by providing shelter and as a source of income and economic power.

The common methods and practices used included:

- Community Learning
- Peer Exchanges
- Local-to-Local Dialogues
- Grassroots Academies
- Community Paralegals
- Media Tools (videos, films, booklets, banners)
- Involvement of Men
- Sensitization and Awareness Workshops
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Research and Documentation
- Rotating Loans and Saving and Credit Schemes.

The successes women identified from the above-mentioned strategies included recognition of their rights, linkages with development partners, better interpersonal relationships between women and local leaders or authorities, some governments now recognize the right of women on accessing and controlling land/property, men now slowly involved and advocating for women's land rights, some cases of grassroots women gaining back their land or purchasing their own land, women were more involved in leadership roles and an increased sense of solidarity between the women.

From these strategies and successes, the groups agreed on **Three Key Thematic Clusters:**

1. **Resource Mobilization and Economic Empowerment:** creating income, security, assets (saving schemes etc.)

2. **Community Organizing, Negotiation and Partnership** (community paralegals, local-to-local dialogue etc.)
3. **Building Women’s Information, Knowledge and Communication Capacities** (community paralegals, peer-to-peer learning, media campaigns etc.)

Participants left the second day of the Academy with a sense of accomplishment resulting from the many initiatives that they have spearheaded and for the knowledge they both learned and imparted with and between each other. The Day’s closing remark said it best, ***“We are seeking equality, efficiency, independence, and choice in decision making roles.”***



Day 3: Making customary and the formal legal systems work for grassroots women and their communities

The third day of the Academy was focused on Community Paralegal Training. The day began with an opening speech, given by Chigozie Udemezue, an independent COHRE Consultant, who has done extensive research in West Africa about the process and training of paralegals. She spoke about how to make customary and formal legal systems work for grassroots communities, and facilitated the morning’s discussions and presentations. She explained that Community Paralegals are important figures in grassroots communities as they act as the “middle man or woman” between the communities and the legal justice system. While the styles and process of community paralegal systems differ across communities, their ultimate purpose is the same. As accessing or dialoguing about land with a husband, kindred, clan member, village leader, or local authorities can often be difficult for grassroots women, a paralegal works to stand with, beside or in for women, to be their voice and to act as a first

responder for the women. Paralegals can also offer communities civil literacy, education workshops and classes on women's rights to land and property.

Rwanda Women's Network, Rwanda

As was mentioned earlier in this report, RWN has been working since 1995, after the end of the genocide. RWN caters to women survivors of gender-based violence and other vulnerable groups including widows, orphans and vulnerable children, and people living with HIV/AIDS. RWN has four program areas, provision of health care and support, education and awareness programs on different issues that affect women, socio-economic empowerment and community advocacy and networking. Along with the Village of Hope described in Day 2 as a part of RWN's work, there is also APROGEDEFERWA and Wickecka. APROGEDEFARWA is an association that promotes gender equality and development of the Rwandan family. The association started in 2003 by 11 persons and it responds to the effects of the 1994 genocide by addressing the following; poverty, gender based violence, HIV/AIDS. The association reaches out to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs), orphans & vulnerable children (OVCs), etc. The association currently serves about 978 persons affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. WICECEKA is an association of PLWHAs in Kimihurura, Gasabo District, Kigali city, where the members play a critical role in choosing the direction of the association. WICECEKA believes in empowering its members by placing them in positions of leadership and decision-making, resulting in a direct decrease of stigma and empowerment of PLWHAs.

Although the WLLA initiative was not their first experience with these issues, the project helped RWN to strengthen their program on women, property and inheritance rights. They began with a Community-based Mapping, and found that even though a new Land Bill had come up, women could not access it to protect their rights. The grant of USD 6,500 to Rwanda Women Network from Huairou Commission as the coordination organization of WLLA was to reinforce knowledge & skills through paralegal training for an existing group of resource persons providing extensive support within communities on women's rights including land/property and inheritance rights, response to gender based violence, etc. In collaboration with WOMEN DIRECT/Education Center for Women in Democracy (ECWD), RWN started the process of developing a community paralegal training module as Legal Aid did not have a manual to address grassroots women. So far it is only in English, but they plan to translate it into the local language. The women who participated in this meeting were the women who came up with sections for the Module. RWN also carried out community Paralegal Trainings in 2 sites, their Village of Hope in Gasabo & Apropedefarwa in Musanze District. The training was 5 days in each site, and it was a pre-test of the manual. The training was not long enough, and each chapter would take a week and it takes a long time to digest the information.

Thirty people gained paralegal knowledge & skills, and the manual and the training are also a spring board for RWN in establishing a strong paralegal program within the communities the organization operates in. RWN plans to replicate the paralegal training within other communities, translate and further disseminate their Training Module, run Refresher-training for the existing paralegals, engage in an Exchange learning activity with others that have had long-term experience in this area, and continue to document stories and testimonies of women & children that have been assisted by the RWN-trained resource persons, so that these can be used in community

mobilization and sensitization on women property and inheritance rights. In land cases that reach the higher courts, trained paralegals prepare the case documents; prepare the clients on how to represent themselves, and once the client needs a lawyer, RWN is also partnered with Legal Aid Services to support women who need this.

GROOTS Kenya, Kenya

GROOTS Kenya identified the need to train community paralegals to bridge the gaps within their communities. The process began by the community choosing the paralegals, and then inviting a lawyer into the community where the trainings were conducted. In order to successfully complete the process, GROOTS Kenya used a curriculum from FIDA (Federation of Women Lawyers) and Widow's Advancement, along with financial support from the Huairou Commission. The Paralegals are trained on succession laws, to document cases, so that people who can read and write are identified to be trained. Paralegals also train the community on will writing. At times, chiefs are trained as paralegals as well, which significantly enhances their level of community legitimacy and effectiveness. Paralegals have several roles, including supporting women in new and existing land cases and in decision-making, informing women of their human rights and how to obtain property, and enhancing the accessibility of legal procedures to community members. The structures that support Paralegals include: watchdog groups, radio listening sessions, open community forums, and ombudsmen committees. Te Paralegals do encounter challenges, such as not being recognized in the courts, too many cases to handle, and a lack of finances to assist women in court. Nevertheless, GROOTS Kenya was pleased to note that Paralegals are in fact solving cases at the community level, and helping women change their attitudes about their rights to property.

Community Watch-Dog Groups

Grassroots women-organised Watch-Dog Groups was one of several tools highlighted which can be used by communities to respond to the needs of women and orphans, and work towards institutional and participatory protection of their assets. These groups have also served as platforms for grassroots women to access governance institutions, to influence legal structures, and to advocate against resource-stripping and the dispossession of women's land, housing and property.

In Kenya, home-based caregivers have formed Watch-Dog Groups, as they continued to find widows and orphans being dispossessed of their marital and parental property when their spouses and parents died of AIDS. Four chiefs were present at a meeting in Gatundu, as were other members of the Watch-Dog Groups, and widows and orphans, who testified about how the Group helped them to get their land back without going through a lengthy and expensive legal process. A woman and her severely handicapped child told the visitors about how the Chief and the Watch-Dog Group rebuilt her house when it was burned down with her husband in it. Having learned from their peers, nine communities in Kenya have now started Watch-Dog Groups. Other tools presented included income-generating programmes, litigating test cases in their communities, community paralegal training, and many more.

SEKE RURAL HOME BASED CARE, ZIMBABWE

Seke Rural Home Based Care (SRHBC) found that women in their communities faced a number of problems, such as physical violence, disinheritance and forced evictions. In 2005 and 2006, as a part of the WLLA partnership project, Seke completed two Community Mapping projects. The Mapping from Year 2 revealed certain trends within the communities, namely:

- Women do not have equal access to land, and secondary land use rights through their male counterparts;
- Widows and divorced women are required to vacate the matrimonial land;
- Traditional laws are put in place by men, and most of these laws are biased in favor of men;
- Cultural laws treat women as minors (the boy child is even more respected than the mother because he is the next successor);
- Women do not freely participate during village court hearings;
- Women and children work the land while the man works in town only to feature to benefit on the only income the family would have worked for.

As a result of these findings, SRHBC began intensive community mobilizations on will writing - a strategy for protecting women and children after the death of husbands and fathers. On top of this, they saw the need to initiate a Community Paralegal program to address the issues identified in the Mapping.

In the past year, Seke began their Community Paralegal Training to provide legal access and to protect vulnerable grassroots women. The aim was to improve the legal literacy of grassroots women on the laws that protect them, encourage women to actively participate in issues concerning them at village courts and public hearings, change negative cultural attitudes that promote the oppression of women and children in rural areas and eradicate the erosion of women land rights by men so as to maintain sustainable livelihoods for the family. The paralegal project was introduced to the local chief and his two headmen, councilors, representatives from the local courts and the local police in addition to the local leaders, men, women and youths. This workshop was necessary so that the community paralegal project would be known to all and hopefully supported by all levels of authority. The community was sensitized of the need to train paralegals who will in turn be the peer educators and focal persons for interpreting laws that are in existence in a bid to protect women. By listening to the narrative of any particular case, these paralegals assess what needs to be done and what referrals are suitable. They also act as advocates with the police to check why a certain case is not moving or why the culprits were released before going to court. They make follow-ups of any pending cases within their area of coverage. This is because most cases of male culprits against women often take too long to be investigated and sometimes the evidence is lost.

Seke partnered with the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) an organization which is made up of women lawyers only. Forty-eight women were selected to undergo training. The whole paralegal course contains 10 modules and takes over one year to complete. This allows time for assimilation, practicing and monitoring in between the modules. Out of the ten modules, the first three have been taught thus far. Despite this, notable successes include that women are now accessing the law without looking further than their communities, women are coming with their different cases to seek advice from these paralegals and some disputes on land have been resolved. Evictions have been reversed or stopped, domestic violence cases have

been acted upon and justice sought, and paralegals hold meetings to share whatever has transpired within their areas

Even though the manuals and trainings have yet to be completed, Seke is seeking further support for resources so that the paralegals complete the remaining 7 modules.

International Women's Communication Center, Nigeria

IWCC also saw the need for Community Paralegals after a Community Mapping which revealed that women experienced disinheritance and had a lack of access and control over resources. They are trying to change negative social cultural practices by creating awareness in their communities about women's rights to land and to redress land injustices. IWCC partnered with other CBOs, NGOs, and traditional rulers who are custodians of the region and customs to enhance their work. They also realized they needed to use religious cultural tenants in their work, as Nigeria is a religiously-diverse country.

CHIGOZIE UDEZMEZUE, MODERATOR

Ms. Udemezue wrapped up these presentations by pointing out that the need for Paralegals was often identified after a Community Mapping had taken place. She noted that before beginning a training process, groups must take the temperature of their communities, to make sure they are ready and accepting of this. The community must want Paralegals. Someone from the city cannot just come in to train people; it must be community-driven at all levels. In Muslim countries, paralegals must be aware of religious customs, and trainings and practices must be run according to this.

Paralegals need training in many areas, as they provide assistance to women, children, and the community at large. It is important that they have strong writing and listening skills, as often they must record cases and prepare documents for court cases. They must also be trained in conflict resolution to be able to provide alternative dispute resolutions, and be aware of what laws, policies, stakeholders and institutions they can refer the women to. It is also important to provide the paralegals with visible resources, so that they are identifiable and recognized by the community, such as t-shirts and pamphlets. Paralegals work to help register community members to register marriage, register births, wills. Paralegals are trained in a variety of ways, including lectures, experiencing sharing through lesson exchanges, case studies, focus group discussions, and individual assignments such as mock trials. Ms. Udemezue concluded that their presence and contributions were important, but that more trainings and standard training manuals were needed.

GROUP DISCUSSION

After the two presentations, a lengthy discussion and question and answer period followed, indicating a high level of interest from Land Academy participants in bringing community paralegal training to their communities. As with days one and two, it was clear the participants had learned and shared a great deal, and it was time to break into small groups to discuss the importance of Community Paralegals. The group came back together, and participants agreed that community paralegals played several important roles. They link communities to resources and information, educate and train communities on legal matters, help to resolve conflicts, and can facilitate and hold community dialogues with local chiefs, religious leaders, cultural leaders and

other important stakeholders. They can collect situations and stories of women's land issues as evidence of injustice. There are often public hearings and trials, community rights workshops, they stand for community values and norms, and they can advocate or lobby for women's rights at various levels.

Some of the important impacts of community paralegals include women having access to justice, quicker results of case settlements, increased ownership of land, renewed confidence, and a greater number of supporters for women's rights. They can also play the role of mediator in situations of dispute or conflict, and provide grassroots women a role in decision-making. Participants also thought of ways to monitor the progress and success of community paralegals. Suggestions were follow-up refresher trainings, logistical support, community feedback sessions, and appreciation of their work. The day ended with Presentations from the Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda Legal Aid Project and the International Land Coalition. These organizations represented professional partners of grassroots women.



Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), UGANDA

Ritah Aciro and Dr. Avvy Sebina Zziwa, presented on behalf of ULA, a registered NGO in Uganda. They work at the both the grassroots and at the government level. At the grassroots level, they have established Land Rights Information Centers to provide access to justice for grassroots communities. These Centers are run by paralegals chosen by both the ULA and communities. The paralegals are respected in communities, and are often Elders, teachers, or community leaders. As such, they are listened to by the communities. They are trained on property, land and human rights laws, and they help communities resolve land cases, usually women's inheritance and property rights issues and orphan issues. At the

governmental level, ULA advocates for women's inclusion in constitutional land reforms. For example, they influenced the 1998 Land Act to make sure that women's issues were a part of this, and achieved two amendments. In 2003, Section 40 was amended so that a man cannot sell a mortgaged property without his wife's consent. Secondly, the Land Committees are now 1/3 women, and today, they continue to monitor the implementation of the Land Act.

They also completed a case study for the Administrator's General Office, whereby they surveyed land and property ownership and access rates, attitudes towards men and women's access to land and property and how women are treated in cases of spousal death and disinheritance. They have used their findings for advocacy purposes and as evidence to influence laws. They lobbied the Municipal Land Office intensely for female and male co-ownership of land and property, but unfortunately they lost this amendment. This did not deter ULA from continuing their hard work, and they investigated which laws are more protective of women's rights. They found that women fare better with formal laws than traditional laws, and that they have the possibility of attaining legal titles within formal laws. Their study helped to create a database of land and property information about women. They have also established a

Land Information System whereby women can learn about their rights and importance of putting it in their names, as well as a Systematic Land Demarcation to demarcate women's land ownership, record its size, area and ownership.

Where they have been working, women have had property restored. They have community Watchdogs and the property cannot be taken with paralegals present. Women can report their cases. They find more women reporting land violation cases than men, and they consider this a success because women are losing their fear to report rights violations, and they are recognizing that it is wrong for them to have land taken. They have been able to reduce conflicts over land with their land resolution center.

After Dr. Zziwa's presentation, it was commented that there is really a need to invest in partnerships with the ULA as they can influence decision-making levels, and they can act as a bridge between grassroots women and high-level authorities. The work they do is on the behalf of grassroots women. They have support from rural women, and they have brought them to Parliament so that they can speak for themselves so that MPs do not make assumptions about women's land situation.

Legal Aid Uganda, Uganda, Maureen Nakato

Legal Aid Project assists women, children and men with Legal Aid Projects. They started in three districts and in 2005, three other branches were established. These branches are led by legal officers. Their objectives are to represent the poor and those having difficulty accessing justice. They sensitize people by conducting workshops on their human rights, and deal with cases of estate and property. Again, the objectives here are to represent and advise vulnerable people in courts of law. They also network with other organizations to utilize laws in favor of the poor. MS. INSERT LAST NAME HERE confirmed that Legal Aid was ready to network with any organization, association or project in order to protect the rights of the women.

International Land Coalition, Italy, Sabine Pallas

The ILC is an alliance of inter-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, such as the Uganda Land Alliance, and they work to influence policy at many levels and to work at the local level for women's empowerment and capacity building. Their membership consists of civil society organizations that are run by women and the work they do. They operate on the strategy that, ***“secure equitable access to land reduces poverty and adds to dignity and inclusion and identity.”*** Their three main areas are 1) Policy dialogues at the National level, 2) Capacity building and Governance and 3) Management where members work together. They work with a number of vulnerable or landless groups: small and marginalized farmers; indigenous groups; people negatively affected by tourism; extractive industries; and land related conflicts.

Sabine Pallas made it clear that the ILC's participation in the Academy had the following objectives:

- 1) To achieve an in-depth understanding of issues, obstacles and challenges facing grassroots organizations working on women's access to land in Africa;

- 2) Make new contacts and establish existing ones with representatives of women's organizations working on improving access to land for women in Africa, with a view to increasing the number of such organizations in ILC membership;
- 3) Establish linkages with participating organizations relevant to ILC's Women's Access project;
- 4) Assess the methodology being used by WLLA in its grassroots academy and use this to inform possible approaches in the Women's Access project and ILC more widely;
- 5) Discuss next steps in Women's Access Project with MISR and other partners in side meetings.

As part of the group sessions, Sabine also informed participants that the following activities offer potential for collaboration with WLLA, both with individual partner organizations as well as with the network as a whole over the next three years of the WLLA project:

1. *Women's Access project Eastern and Southern Africa*, whereby she later disseminated information on the project, and provided details to interested groups and encouraged applications for small grants program, and to share updates with WLLA. This is a Canadian Funded Participatory Research project in Eastern and South African, and its results are to be used as evidence to convince government to improve women's access to land.

2. *African Union Land Policy Guidelines*, whereby contacts are to be established between the ILC Africa steering group and WLLA.

Ms. Pallas ended her presentation by saying that the Grassroots Academy offered a unique opportunity for ILC to actively engage with grassroots women's groups in Africa to learn from their experience. In terms of ILC programming, it was also an opportunity to present the Women's Access Project in Eastern and Southern Africa in more detail and encourage grassroots groups to apply.

Day 4: Designing the 2nd Phase of WLLA

Confirming Our Thematic/Practice Clusters, Our Core Activities & Goals and How We Will Cooperate to Advance Them; Assessing Our Plans in Light of the Successes and Challenges of Phase One

The fourth day of the Academy took a new turn with an end to formal presentations and a deeper focus on collectively analyzing and planning how to strengthen the WLLA joint regional partnership project. Participants were asked to imagine what activities and future partnerships WLLA project network members wanted to engage in. The fourth day's challenges focused on figuring out how grassroots women want to cooperate in order to strengthen both the development of the regional network as well as the larger movement on women's equitable access to land and property. While it was clear that all the participants (and their respective organizations) have been contributing extraordinary amounts to their communities, questions arose on what best strategies and practices should be a point of focus during the second phase of the WLLA project. Participants discussed what kind of collaboration groups would like with and between one another during the second phase of the WLLA, what activities they

would like to embark upon and what impacts being a part of WLLA will have on their group and the women of their communities.

Group Discussion

Participants held a discussion about issues they had to think about for their future as a regional network, and regional women's movement. Participants agreed that the beginning point of a stronger regional network begins with events like the Land Academy, as groups were made more aware of the work going on in other groups and at other levels, they found commonalities and solidarity across issues. For example, some participating Ugandan grassroots groups learned of Ugandan NGOs such as Legal Aid and the Land Alliance for the first time, while Ugandan NGO partners in attendance were able to meet with grassroots groups and learn about their work. Participants also agreed that there must be a re-visit of the approach, of educated professionals and grassroots women, where knowledge and information flows both ways. Even though the two sets of groups are advancing the same cause, there was great concern over the obvious gap between top-down and bottom-up approaches of organizations that are advancing the same cause. Everlyne of GROOTS Kenya pointed out that the existence of funding and support for research, like the ILC, can help bridge some gaps between top-down ideas and bottom up research and realities. Another point to consider was that the Land Academy had made it clear that grassroots women often lack awareness about their rights in their communities. Participants agreed that there needed to be a way to facilitate awareness-raising and education in their communities. How men could help and support grassroots women was another point made. *"We cannot do it alone,"* said Fati of Grassroots Sisterhood Federation, *"We cannot take these messages to their full extent without men's support. They are at the highest decision-making positions, and we need men to be on our side."*



Break-Out Group Session

Participants then broke out into groups according to where they were in WLLA, such as whether they were new members or if they had participated in the process in past years. Groups were to answer questions, and identify similarities or links between groups. As Day four was a Strategic Planning day, groups had to think about what they wanted to do for the next three years. Groups were to hold conversations about whether and how the work of WLLA complimented and connected to their work. They broke into four groups, to answer the following set of questions:

1. What kind of collaboration would you like with WLLA?
 - i) How can WLLA add value to your work?
 - ii) How can your work add value to WLLA?
2. Propose practical activities and partnerships, and what support you need from WLLA
3. What are the potential impacts and/or results of activities to achieve in one year?

Group Discussions & Report Back

In terms of the benefits of WLLA, participants clearly had a wide range of ideas of what this could mean for them. Some of these collaborating opportunities included an increased exposure to the wider network (with other grassroots women and partners), peer learning exchanges, linking to donors to access resources, capacity building, and building knowledge. The groups were eager to engage in numerous activities, including mapping and enumeration, media awareness, community paralegal training, and income-generating activities. Some impacts of strengthening WLLA partnerships included facilitating grassroots participation in policy / advocacy events, creating a database of information after mappings, peace building, increased visibility of grassroots issues, and increased participation at all levels.

Group I: New Groups to WLLA

AWARE, SWID, NAKASONGOLA, JWOP, ZWL, Refdaf

1. WLLA Added Value

- a. Increased exposure to wider network with other grassroots women and partners
- b. Relationship and partnership building
- c. Economic empowerment through strengthening income generating activities
- d. Peer learning exchanges
- e. Linking to donors to access resources
- f. Capacity Building, training and building knowledge
- g. Improved access to information
- h. Increase the number of women in grassroots on their land and property rights
- i. Increase the number of women in WLLA network
- j. Enabling environment to access their rights to land and property
- k. Teach other WLLA members about rural women's issues
- l. Bring new strategies to WLLA

2. Practical Activities

- a. Mapping and enumeration
- b. Media: TV, film, radio, posters
- c. Community Paralegal training
- d. Income generating activities
- e. Exchanges and learning visits
- f. Proposal writing support
- g. Training farmers sustainable agricultural techniques
- h. Savings and trading schemes
- i. Revolving loan funds
- j. Building relations with local authorities and involving them in our work

3. Impacts/Results

- a. Women would have acquired access to land and property (CPLs, mapping information, income generation)
- b. Economic, social and political empowerment
- c. Confidence to put forward cases
- d. Database of information after mapping
- e. Closer collaboration and partnership with NGOs and grassroots groups and other stakeholders
- f. After exchanges are conducted, we will learn new strategies
- g. Community Paralegals presence will help solve cases and disputes and reduce cases at higher levels
- h. Increase community awareness allows people to identify issues (cases) earlier
- i. Peace building

GROUP II: WLLA Partners

Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda Legal Aid, International Land Coalition, Wellspring Advisors

1. Collaboration Points

- a. Research and documentation
- b. Information and knowledge sharing
- c. Capacity building
- d. Lobby and advocacy
- e. Resource mobilization (skills, expert referrals)

ii) Value Added

- a. Common platform
- b. Representation and authenticity
- c. Targeted training
- d. Visibility
- e. Validation and reflection
- f. Lessons learned and best practices
- g. Building critical mass
- h. Technical support

2. Practical Activities

- a. Expand networking sharing
- b. Concretize networks and activities
- c. Increase WLLA visibility
- d. Include WLLA experiences in research (test hypotheses)
- e. Continue Local-to-Local Dialogues
- f. Invert capacity building direction: Grassroots can teach or train other groups
- g. Issue-specific mapping (ex. HIV/AIDS efforts)
- h. Devise different media advocacy strategies-like Tinge documentary, radio stations to listen to discussions

3. Impacts/Results

- a. Documentations/Publications
- b. Facilitate grassroots participation in policy/advocacy events
- c. Linkages with WLLA members

d. Capacity Building

GROUP III: WLLA YR 3 Groups
MWEDO, UCOBAC, AFEBEO, LAMOSA, ITERAMBERE

As the groups from Group III had just completed their first year as a part of WLLA, they were eager to embark upon new activities after having completed Community Mappings. They decided on a different approach to the group work, and came up with several activities that would be important responses and strategies to the results of their Community Mappings.

1. Planned Activities

- a. Community organizing of grassroots women on land and property
- b. Sensitization of the community (Tanzania, UCOBAC, Burundi, LAMOSA)
- c. Documentation in local languages
- d. Extension of mapping to other districts (UCOBAC, LAMOSA)
- e. Local-to-Local Dialogues with local authorities and other organizations (UCOBAC, LAMOSA)
- f. Community Mapping (Burundi)
- g. Identifying mobilizing and training Paralegals (UCOBAC and LAMOSA)
- h. Sensitizing local leaders on the importance of Community Paralegals
- i. Exchange visits for paralegals
- j. Exchange visit for paralegals where countries have succeeded (UCOBAC, MWEDO, and LAMOSA)
- k. Initiation of income generating activities to the necessary people and most vulnerable (UCOBAC, Burundi, LAMOSA)
- l. Documentation of all implemented activities (UCOBAC, MWEDO, Burundi, LAMOSA)
- m. Local office for grassroots women in each locality (LAMOSA, UCOBAC, MWEDO)

ii) Value Added

- a. Grassroots women & men trained in community mapping
- b. Community dialogues
- c. Documentation done by the grassroots with the association of the leading organizations
- d. Extension of mapping will be done by the leading organizations implemented by grassroots women
- e. Local-to-Local Dialogues will be lead by grassroots and facilitated by the leading organizations
- f. Training of paralegals
- g. Income generating activities for grassroots women

3. Results & Impacts

- a. Continuity of the mapping exercise
- b. Sensitization to the community and local Leaders
- c. Local-to-Local Dialogues
- d. Engage local leaders and grassroots women to bridge the gaps
- e. Watch dog groups
- f. Documentation
- g. Exchange visits

Group IV: WLLA YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 GROUPS

GROOTS Kenya, RWN, Seke Rural Home Based Care, Grassroots Sisterhood Federation, Ghana Federation for the Urban Poor, IWCC, Ntankah

Group IV was also comprised of first and second year WLLA members, who also took a different approach to answering the questions they were given. They also decided to map out the activities they wanted to enhance in the fourth year of WLLA, and noted which activities they collaborate and partner together on.

1. Planned Activities

- a. Train women leaders and counselors as paralegals on legal services literacy (RWN, GROOTS, Ntengwe, IWCC, Seke, Ghana Groups)
- b. Documentation and Publication of IEC Materials in local languages (RWN, Seke, Ghana Groups)
- c. Peer Learning and Exchanges (Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Zambia, Senegal)
- d. Developing Radio Programs: Two components (1) Run by women; (2) Women listening to the programs / discussions (Ghana and GROOTS Kenya)
- e. Production of positions papers (Ghana)
- f. Adult literacy and legal litigation (Cameroon)
- g. Strengthen Linkages with other networks (all)
- h. Conduct Community Outreach activities (all)

2. Community Mobilization and Networking:

- a. Hold community dialogues (GROOTS Kenya, Seke, RWN, Ntankah, and Grassroots Sisterhood and Ghana Federation)
- b. Leadership training (Grassroots Sisterhood, Ghana Federation and Ntankah)
- c. Formation of Watchdog Groups (Seke, GK)
- d. Formation of Land Alliances (Seke, Zimbabwe)
- e. Strengthen Linkages with other networks (Ntankah and Grassroots Sisterhood, Ghana Federation)

3. IMPACTS/ RESULTS:

- a. Increased awareness
- b. Participation will increase from all levels
- c. Legal Literacy will be enhanced
- d. Peaceful communities
- e. Enhanced livelihoods
- f. Resource materials will also be available
- g. Increased awareness due to community mobilization
- h. Increased participation at all levels
- i. Legal literacy enhanced
- j. Peaceful communities
- k. Reaching larger communities through literacy programs

Wrap-Up

The fourth day of the Land Academy was a chance for groups to truly imagine how the WLLA could compliment, enhance and facilitate the work of grassroots women's

groups. Participants were able to see a three-year vision about how more groups could get involved, expand into other areas and join other networks. The day also set the stage for the close-out of the Land Academy and planning for the year ahead. This working day clarified grassroots women's collective regional vision and how each participating grassroots group and NGO could grow and implement the WLLA project initiative. Even though participants came from different countries, different contexts and different organizational structures (from small community-based groups to large scale NGOs), participants had a common goal of how they envisioned bottom-up growth and the development of a new power base. Throughout the process there was a great deal of eagerness to link through the WLLA network and to combine and increase visibility for the good work that grassroots women's groups have been doing.



Day 5: Planning and Coordination for WLLA Phase II Governance

The day began with a summary of the previous day. First, for new groups, it was clear there had been a lot of eagerness to link through WLLA to combine and increase visibility for the good work they have been doing. Days four and five were also about figuring out how these talented groups could cooperate and add value to WLLA, and how WLLA could add value to their work. During the partner presentation, professional groups made it clear they were ready to ***invert capacity building, by learning from grassroots women***. From the bottom-up, grassroots women could teach the professional community about innovative approaches, and help improve women's ability to look for information and motivated to identify processes and strategies. Partnering strategically at all levels is an important and exciting prospect for WLLA partners, and Day four was just the beginning of the discussion on how to effectively partner at all levels.

Session I

Sandy Schilen of GROOTS International introduced the goals for the fifth and last day of the Land Academy. She noted that it is a goal of WLLA *not* to only focus on group-by-group individual activities but to insure that people are better connected to each other in a peer learning network. She gave the example of conference calls whereby everyone can talk about what has worked or failed in terms of particular strategies. Throughout day five, groups were to think of ways to become better connected to one another. In order to do so, first groups had to get a sense of where they had moved. In the break-out sessions, groups would need to imagine where they wanted to be, what stages each strategy will take place at (for example, a community mapping in a group's first stage), how groups can partner with other groups at different stages, what they have to have done in order to go certain strategies.

It was important for groups to think about their organizing sequence, where they would analyze the areas and activities they were trying to improve upon, and what it would take and in what order, to get where they needed to go. This would be a way of looking at the future in WLLA as process of building blocks. Groups broke apart to critically assess how they envisioned their future within the WLLA. The groups were organized into the same groups they were in on Day 4. Groups broke apart to analyze and answer the following questions:

1. **Organizing sequence: What are the points of consultation across groups for gains and developments?**
2. **Note where women should be claiming or protecting their land as a result of our efforts.**
3. **What are the negotiations/partnerships we want to have, and the specific results we are trying to accomplish?**

Report Backs

Some groups, like those new to the WLLA joint regional partnership project, made up their individual group plans, while others, those already part of the WLLA, made up groups plans together.

The groups new to WLLA engaged themselves with more specific questions:

1. Who are we? How are we organized now?
2. What do we want to do in the course of next year in WLLA?
3. How do we plan to get there? How will a WLLA activity impact us at home?
4. Points of collaboration-where do we want to link?

Reseau Des Femmes Pour Le Developpement Durable En Afrique - Women's Network for Sustainable Development in Africa (REFDAF), Senegal

Refdaf is a network of women working for sustainable development in Africa, in ten regions of Senegal, for 10,000 women and with 150 grassroots groups. Refdaf expressed that they would like help in the areas of training and skills, education and adult literacy, income generating activities and their housing project. The steps by which this can happen are:

- i) **Peer Exchange: with a WLLA group experienced in Community Paralegal training/confidence building/awareness raising**

- ii) Community Paralegal Training: to raise knowledge and awareness about women's rights to the communities they work in
- iii) Workshops: to raise women's confidence and voice to speak at decision-making levels, to improve their status, to defend their rights (this is an area where they have a lot of difficulty, and any help WLLA could help with that would be appreciated)

The foreseen results of these activities and involvement in WLLA would be that women's rights and awareness would be raised, a greater ability to monitor the implementation of Community Paralegals, women's voices and decision-making ability would have been strengthened, and decision-makers would pay more attention to women and their housing needs. They wanted to do all this by collaborating with groups who have had experience and success with their WLLA strategies. They would do this through emails, phone calls, and ideally, peer exchanges and visits.

Slum Women Initiative for Development (SWID) is a registered Ugandan NGO and a grassroots women's initiative group, with 550 members. The activities SWID expressed an interest in engaging in were Local-to-Local Dialogues, Community Mapping and Enumeration, Revolving loan funds and training Community Paralegals. The impact of these activities would be to build relationships with governing authorities as a positive response to women's initiatives through holding local to local dialogues, and a stronger voice and outlet to express needs and to advocate for their rights. Furthermore, a Community Mapping and Enumeration would provide a SWID with a substantial information database, that could further lead to planning around necessary issues and act as an impetus for resource mobilization. The livelihoods of 550 women would have improved through provision of revolving loan fund, as women would have an easier time acquiring land tenure and in position to pay housing mortgage. Finally, Paralegal training will empower women on their land rights, which would then lead to more knowledgeable communities, increases in reporting land cases, will-making and processing land titles. The importance of being a part of WLLA was several fold. SWID saw it as a means of information-sharing, resource mobilization, and a chance to engage in exchange visits with other women groups in WLLA networks locally and abroad.

Nakasongologa is a cooperative of 860 women, throughout nine districts. The activities they want to engage in included mobilizing women to join society, sensitizing women on savings and credit, HIV/AIDS prevention and positive living, giving loans to fully registered women at low interest rates, and sensitizing women on their land rights and ownership of property. In order to accomplish these objectives, Nakasongologa indicated that they wanted to carry out Local-to-Local Dialogues, Community Mapping, Train Community Paralegals and Sensitization programs. These activities would allow them to build partnerships with different stakeholders, assess the magnitude of different problems affecting women, sensitize, defend and protect women on land issues with Community Paralegals, provide women with economic empowerment through savings and credit schemes. Finally, as a part of the WLLA network, they wanted to strengthen partnerships with other groups and get help with paralegal trainings.

Action for Women and Awakening in Rural Environment (AWARE) is a registered women's NGO, with 150 registered members, made up of 30 women's groups, and

operating in 3 districts of Karamoja, Kaabong, Kotido and Abim. The activities they expressed an interest in doing with WLLA were Community Mapping, Local-to-Local Dialogues, more paralegal trainings to enhance their already-existent paralegal work, enhancing their materials and media (such as posters, TV and radio discussion), increasing and enhancing income generating activities and loan schemes, and finally participating in Peer Exchanges and learning visits. The impacts of these activities would be that more women could acquire access to land and property; they would have more confidence in reporting cases of land and property grabbing and other human rights abuses in the community, and increased female economic empowerment through loan programs. The Paralegals would be able to solve problems related to women's land and property rights, more women would have more access to information and educate other women, and finally local and traditional leaders would recognize and accept women's rights. Being part of the WLLA would enable AWARE to expand their network, share information, enhance their resource mobilization, and learn more skills.

Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP) of Zambia, a group made up of seven government and non-government organizations has 9 support groups in different districts made up of widows and orphans in each. Their overall objective is to address property and inheritance rights and sustenance and livelihoods. As a new member of WLLA, JWOP was primarily interested in Capacity Building through Peer Exchange visits and training in effective and efficient land management, income generation, such as revolving loan schemes, and good farming techniques, training more paralegals to have critical mass, use media more effectively to publicize the issues, and to enhance and monitor their ongoing work with Tribunals, to evaluate their work and what other people are doing in legal and traditional courts. The results that would come from these Capacity-Building activities would be more knowledge and information about income-generation and effective management of land, increase the economic self-sustenance of their members, increased the JWOP membership, and contributing to a critical mass of women supporting land and inheritance rights. JWOP also wanted JWOP and WLLA to be more visible in the media as a campaign of women. They wanted to partner with WLLA members for Exchanges in specific areas, for example UCOBAC for income generation activities, RWN for monitoring and evaluation techniques, and Ntengwe to learn about how they produced their film. After the groups new to the WLLA presented, older groups followed these by presenting their plans.

Maasai Women Economic Development Organization (MWEDO) of Tanzania wanted to continue their Community Mappings that had been done the previous year. They wanted to take the Mapping to Kiteto District (4 villages) by the Longido Mapping Team, who had already done the first Mapping. They wanted to participate in Exchange Visits between the Longido Mapping team and the Kiteto Mapping team to learn and observe how the mappings take place and function. Following this, they wanted to engage in Local-to-Local Dialogues led by the Longido Mapping team, which would result in the establishment of Watchdog groups, to access land at community level, and to begin thinking about a Paralegal process. Their continued involvement in WLLA would also be through Peer Exchanges to learn more about Local-to-Local Dialogues and Watchdog groups.

AFECEO and **Iterambere** of Burundi presented together on their mutual desire to work together as members of WLLA to prepare women for a large and vital legal referendum concerning women's rights to property and land. They wanted to partner to teach their communities about the contents of the law and referendum, so that women know the implications of the law. They will also work in partnership with other Burundi groups doing similar awareness-raising. They want to fulfill this objective by organizing around the Code in question, by gathering information through linking with groups that are working on laws. At that point, they also want to begin a Mapping Process, followed by an Information Analysis, where they would organize dialogues between grassroots women and important stakeholders and decision-makers. All the above activities would help with their overall desire to sensitize, educate and empower women in regards to their rights.

UCOBAC wanted to continue the Mapping process they had begun the previous year with KCCC. They want to also involve the women previously mapped to enhance their awareness-raising efforts, identify target groups and open up dialogues about the issues that came out in the first Mapping Report. They also wanted to implement a monitoring and evaluation system to be able to verify where the work had come, and where it was going. UCOBAC also expressed an interest in Local-to-Local Dialogues at the village level. This would enable them engage other important stakeholders in their Dialogues, such as Legal Aid and other important land institutions, as well as to identify people for the next step of Community Paralegals. Finally, through Peer Exchange visits with other WLLA groups, UCOBAC wanted to begin Paralegal Training processes as well as Watch Dog group formations.

Land Access Movement Of South Africa (LAMOSA) presented their comprehensive plan, beginning with another Community Mapping, collaborating with the 300 women who had been involved in the first Mapping. Another mapping would be an opportunity to mobilize other communities, develop a forum to consult local authorities, mobilize resources, further document local conditions and map a total of 5 regions. Having consulted local authorities during the Mapping, the next step would be to set up Local-to-Local Dialogues with local leaders to discuss the findings during the documentation. This would allow for dialogues between groups and their leaders, as well as a chance to identify women to participate in exchange visits and to be trained as Community Paralegals and Watchdogs. Finally, after a Peer Exchange with another WLLA group experienced in paralegals and Watchdog groups, women would then be trained as paralegals to solve and finalize land disputes, and cases of inheritance and ownership. An overarching goal throughout all of these steps would be to involve chiefs and committees in the 5 target communities, to be able to advance, protect and advocate for women's rights to land and property.

Rwanda Women's Network (RWN) began by reminding participants that currently they have 30 Paralegals trained in two of their associations, and their Community Paralegal Training Manuals are currently being printed in English. Their future goals were to translate the manuals into local languages, hold a refresher training for the existent 30 paralegals, and strengthening their monitoring and evaluations skills when reporting back to RWN. Furthermore, RWN wants to train 60 new Paralegals in 4 districts and 2 associations. To enhance the success of these activities, RWN wanted to go a Peer Exchange with another group that has more experience in Paralegal work,

as well as have existent Paralegals train local leaders on the protection of women's land and property rights.

Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation and Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor from Ghana presented together on their mutual vision of the future. They wanted to strengthen the capacity the 30 existent Paralegals, and have them train new women as Community Paralegals. They also wanted to build relationships with local authorities and land officers to cooperate with grassroots women through paralegals and watchdogs, and through this, identify issues for public radio discussion and hold such radio-listening discussion. The two groups also saw the need to cooperate by exchanging materials and local to local agendas, hold phone calls to check for progress and challenges, identify Peer Exchanges that benefit them the most, and track the empowerment of grassroots women together. Finally, they also hoped to have a Peer Exchange visit with WLLA member Ntankah Village of Cameroon, a group they saw as having had success mobilizing around land issues.

As time was limited, the Partner groups including the **Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda Legal Aid, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) and the International Land Coalition (ILC), presented together.** Their plan involved concretizing networking, information-sharing, capacity building and resource mobilization. The activities that fell under these categories were: to involve WLLA members in the ongoing activities (e.g. ULA in WLLA), holding a Members' Forum, to involve WLLA women in the ILC's land access project in 2008 and the ILC Regional Summit, to include WLLA member on list to receiving news letters, to increase the visibility of WLLA members on ILC website, and finish the WLLA website. Other activities also included extending free technical services, such as paralegal training by Legal Aid, linking WLLA member groups to consultation meeting with African Union members to have input on land policy guidelines, and involving WLLA members on land policy reform advocacy activities on gender aspects.

At this point, the session came to close with Ms. Schilen summarizing the trends and outcomes of Session I. It was obvious that there were many parallel goals between groups, such as a growing recognition that community paralegals are very helpful, as well as partnering with local authorities to ensure that it is easier for women to access and protect their land. As a result of these recognitions, many groups want to partner with other WLLA groups that have already experienced these trainings. Clearly, the future holds the potential for many more opportunities to link. The Land Academy was an organizing tool, part of the process of strengthening the links between groups.

Days four and five were full of meeting in groups to focus on activities women wanted to do in the next year of WLLA, where the activities would they get them, and how they can work better together. However, the conversation was not to end there, and the next and final step of the Land Academy was to the Activity and Action Plan for the next year of WLLA into reality as a stronger network of grassroots women.

Session II

In this final session of the Land Academy, participants were to develop concrete Action Plans for the next year of WLLA, as well as the next three years of WLLA, when the coordination of the WLLA project is to be transferred to Africa. Sandy Schilen pointed out that *“WLLA can act as a global voice for grassroots women's land*

rights. Women can have longer and more meaningful lives. Therefore, we have to ask ourselves, how do we strengthen ourselves, as a movement and a network? What change will have occurred, and what do we stand for? What do we want our voice to say, what do we want to achieve? These questions relate to the next three years of WLLA.”

At this point, participants split once again into groups to brainstorm their ideas for where they wanted to be as a movement/network in 2011, and what changes we as a movement are pressing for in these next three years. As so many of the groups answers were overlapping, the Report Backs ended with a grouping of all the ideas that were discussed.

WLLA in 2011

- National and international representation to gain global recognition for grassroots women and land issues
- Consolidated plans and strategies
- Regional offices for networking institutions
- Sustainable movement
- Better place to live for everyone
- Resourceful movement that will promote women’s economic empowerment through equitable access to land and control of land and its benefit
- Space for women to be informed, acquisition, restoration and visibility
- A bigger movement where women acquire more land and property to address gender imbalances and that networks to secure women land rights
- A movement that is able to support the voice of women globally in land and property, security and inheritance
- Enhanced capacity of grassroots women to actively participate in various decision making levels national and international level
- A movement with stronger links in Francophone countries
- Able to present common recommendations to the African Union on women’s rights at country levels

Changes WLLA is pressing for:

- Active participation in land reforms and policy
- Recognition of grassroots work at national levels
- Change in access to resources to support work to advance women’s agenda
- Advances at the national level for women’s land rights
- Grassroots participation and involvement in decision-making
- Change in culture
- Better places to live
- Improved economic position of women
- Recognition of grassroots work
- Prioritize women’s land rights issues as development agenda

WLLA Development:

- WLLA Website
- Share your story: posted report backs from groups
- Outreach: messages through mobile phones
- Information updates

- Develop a Country-by-Country database of laws, legislations and policies on land and women's rights, documents that might be helpful or necessary
- Increase the number of Networking Events, and inform WLLA members of their occurrence
- Newsletters: to strengthen activities & awareness of ongoing work
- African Coordination & WLLA regional desk
- WLLA joint regional partnership project spreading to other countries
- More men on board
- Youth getting involved in land and property issues
- Ability to access more financial resources
- Build relationships with local authorities and land officials to cooperate with grassroots women and community leaders and paralegals
- Launch local banks to secure women's control of communal lands and cope with privatization
- WLLA groups will exchange Training manuals and Local-to-Local agendas
- Phone calls to check on progress and challenges
- Identify Peer Exchanges that most benefit and maximize value of money
- Track the empowerment of grassroots women

Regional Advocacy

- African Union
- African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Global Opportunities

- UN Events: Place for Advocacy
- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), USA
- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), USA
- World Urban Forum, China
- AIDS Conference, Mexico
- Global Land Tools Network (GLTN), UN-Habitat Partnership Initiatives
- Commission for Legal Empowerment of the Poor, USA

Day 5 Final Remarks

The fifth day of the workshop was clearly focused on recognizing that when grassroots women need to meet challenges, the larger the numbers are, the stronger their voice. It is a goal of the WLLA project to ensure that women's groups are better connected to each other through a regional peer learning network. Participants concluded that the WLLA project provided a unique opportunity for change regarding both individual projects focused on increasing women's access to land and housing, to increased networking between organizations nationally, regionally and globally. It was found that the WLLA joint regional partnership network would increasingly operate as a resourceful movement that will continue to promote women's economic empowerment and equitable access to land and housing. It will also provide a space for the development of a movement that will continue to create space for women to be informed, to acquire land more easily, and to gain greater visibility. In addition, the momentum behind the regional network will be able to support the voice of grassroots women globally on land and housing, security and inheritance, and women's economic empowerment. The WLLA will continue to make advances at the community,

regional, national and international levels, with the strength of grassroots women's voices growing stronger at each level.

Conclusion

What had come out of the last day of the Land Academy, and the Land Academy altogether, was that grassroots women work should be highlighted at all levels, and that they saw themselves and WLLA as an action network, and because of this, participants worked together to brainstorm common hopes, objectives and goals for the future of WLLA. There was a great deal of eagerness to link through WLLA to combine and increase the visibility of their work and issues. WLLA would increasingly be a resourceful movement that can promote women's economic empowerment through equitable access to land and control of land and its benefit. It will be a movement that will create space for women to be informed, to acquire land more easily, and to gain greater visibility. It will be a movement able to support the voice of women globally in land and property, security and inheritance. WLLA will continue to make advances at community, regional, national and international levels, with the strength of grassroots women's voices growing longer at each level. The Land Academy's discussions were rich, varied and thought provoking and revolutionary. Participants left inspired and eager to begin their work and communication with their new partners and friends. Closing ceremonies provided for a touching and important way to say goodbye and give thanks for all the hard work every Land Academy participants had put into the process. Participants sang, *"Grassroots women are we together? We are one ...oh, oh, we are together, WE ARE ONE!"*



Appendix 1: Land Academy Agenda

Women's Land Link Africa (WLLA) LAND ACADEMY 2008
4-8 February 2008
Entebbe, Uganda

Developmental Goal:

To strengthen the WLLA network through peer learning, reflection/assessment and strategic planning exercises that enable members to collectively:

- *orient new groups,*
- *agree on the practices, strategies and tools we are promoting to ensure grassroots women's access and control their land, housing and property,*
- *agree upon our collective action/advocacy agenda and how to promote it, and*
- *establish a 3 year plan that reflects our strengths, a grassroots, pro-poor approach to women's empowerment and fosters African leadership, capacity development and coordination.*

Objectives of the WLLA Land Academy:

Days 1-3

- **Develop Shared Understanding of the Strategies Network Members are Piloting to Ensure Women Secure Their Land, Housing & Property and Empower Themselves to Lead and Assert Their Rights**
- **Evaluate the Gains We Are Achieving (the effectiveness of our Work) the Impact We Want to Have in Three Years, and what it will take to get there**
- **Identify Which Community Groups Want to Teach & Learn From One Another & What You Want to Achieve From this Peer Learning & Relationship Building**

Days 4-5

- **Discuss and Agree Upon the Change Our Network is Trying to Promote (local, national, regional global), the Venues We Will Be Active In, and the Partnerships & Resources We Need to Be Effective**
- **Collectively Establish A Work Plan That Programs These Elements: Identifying Roles, Responsibilities and Resources and Sets Objectives for Where We Want to Be in Year 1, 2 & 3**

Meeting Processes We'll Use to Promote Our Objectives

1. Participant Anchored Peer Learning and Analysis Panels
2. Small Group Discussion Sessions
3. Participant Facilitation and Meeting Support Teams

4. Activities to Take Care of Our Health, Our Spirits, and Our Responsibilities/and Loved Ones at Home

Agenda:

Day 1: *Orientation to the Land Academy and First Round of Practice Sharing by WLLA Members*

- 9:00-9:30 Welcome: From UCOBAC and the Huairou Commission: Women, Homes, and Community
- 9:30-10:30 Go-Around and Introductions
- 10:30- 10:45 Tea Break
- 10:45 - 11:15 Background on the Huairou Commission, Q & A to follow
- 11:15 - 11:30 Introduction to the WLLA project and Background, Q & A to follow
- 11:30 - 12:00 Review of Meeting Goals and Objectives, Processes and Meeting Agreements, Q & A to follow
- 12:00 - 1:00 *Lunch*

Day 1 Afternoon Session:

- 1:00 - 1:10 Moderator Introduces the Session and Reviews Goals for Days 1 & 2
- 1:10- 2:10 Community Mapping of Women's Efforts to Keep or Access Land and Property: Identifying the Issues & Actors
1. Land Access Movement of South Africa (LAMOSA)
 2. Rural Women's Movement (RWM) of South Africa
 3. Maasai Women and Development Organization (MWEDO) Tanzania.
 4. UCOBAC from Uganda
- Presentations to be followed by open dialogue and Q & A session*
- 2:10 - 2:45 Local-to Local Dialogues: Negotiating and Building Alliances with Influence Holders
1. Ntanhah from Cameroon
 2. GROOTS Kenya,
- Presentations to be followed by open dialogue and Q & A session*
- 2:45 - 3:00 *Tea Break*
- 3:00 - 3:10 Participants Break Into 5 Small Group Thematic Reflection/Discussion Groups (with instructions and group leaders)
- 3:10-4:10 Each small group discusses the strategies, practices and tools they heard, the impact they heard groups were having and identifies which

strategies/practices their home groups would most like to learn from and share with and why.

- 4:10 - 5:10 Report Back from the 5 Groups, Collective Reflection on the Small Group Summaries
- 5:15 - 6:00 Close of Day 1--Recap by Moderator, Review of Day 2, Logistical/Special Event Announcements
-

Day 2: *Sharing of Best Practices: Critical Analysis and Classification of Strategies, Tools and Types of Practices*

- 9:00- 9:15 Opening, Temperature Taking, Orientation to Day 2
- 9:15 - 9 :45 Building Our Capacity Through Community to Community Peer Learning Activities: the Gains We've Made
1. Rwanda Women's Network
 2. Iterambere Association
 3. Association des Femmes pour l'Education et le Bien-Etre des Enfants Orphelins from Burundi

Presentation to be followed by open dialogue and Q & A session

9:45 - 10:00 *Tea Break*

- 10:00 - 11:15 Grassroots Organizing Strategies to Secure Women's Access to and Control Over Land and Housing
1. Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor,
 2. Ghana Sisterhood Foundation
 3. Ntengwe for Community Development, Zimbabwe
 4. Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP), Zambia
 5. Network of Women for Sustainable Development in Africa (Refdaf), Senegal
 6. Women and Land in Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

Presentations to be followed by open dialogue and Q & A session

- 11:15 - 12:00 Participants Break Into 5 Small Group Thematic Reflection/Discussion Groups (with instructions and group leaders)
Each small group discusses the strategies, practices and tools they heard, the impact they heard groups were having and identifies which strategies/practices their home groups would most like to learn from and share with and why.

12:00- 12:45 Report Back from the 5 Groups, Collective Reflection on the Small Group Summaries

12:45- 1:00 Close-out of Practice Sharing

1:00 - 2:00 *Lunch*

2:00 - 6:00 Peer Learning Exchange == Site Visit in Kampala: Organized by UCOBAC

Day 3: *Making customary and the formal legal systems work for grassroots women and their communities*

9:00 - 9:15 Opening and Recap of Day 2
Introduction of Day 3 (Moderated by Chigozie Udemezue, Nigeria)

9:15 - 11:00 Presentation by WLLA members who have undertaken Paralegal Activities in 2007

1. Rwanda Women's Network
2. GROOTS Kenya
3. Seke Rural Home Based Care
4. IWCC

11:00 - 11:15 *Tea Break*

11:15 - 12:00 Presentation by Chigozie, on various types of paralegal systems found throughout Africa/beyond

12:00 - 1:00 Discussion and Analysis: Small Break-out Groups

What do effective, grassroots paralegal activities look like?

1:00-2:00 *Lunch*

Day 3 Afternoon Session:

2:00-3:00 Presentations and Discussion Continued
Develop a set of criteria that describes effective grassroots community-driven paralegal program

3:00-4:00 Learning about some national and international efforts that use legal and political systems to gain land and housing for grassroots women
presentation by Land Reform Organizations present:

1. Kenya Land Alliance
2. Uganda Land Alliance
3. International Land Coalition (ILC)
4. COHRE

4:00 - 4:15 *Tea Break*

4:15 - 5:00 *Q & A Session to follow presentations and Facilitated Group Discussion*

5:00—6:00 Harvesting Our 3 Days of Practice Sharing, Brainstorming Implications for Our Strategic Plan

Day 4: Designing the 2nd Phase of WLLA: Confirming Our Thematic/Practice Clusters, Our Core Activities & Goals and How We Will Cooperate to Advance Them; Assessing Our Plans in Light of the Successes and Challenges of Phase One

- 9:00-9:15 Opening and Temperature Taking. Review of Day 4 Objectives and Process
- 9:15-10:00 Working Group Proposes A Plan for Clustering Our Work Thematically; Participants Debate and Decide
- 10:00-11:45 Participants Meet in Small Discussion Groups (According to the Thematic Cluster Most Relevant to Their Home Group) and (with tea) Outlines Core Activities, Goals & Impact They Want to Achieve, Advocacy Messages They Want to Push, & Communication Systems Needed to Support Their Work
 Coordination
- 10:00-11:00 A Year In Review of Events Attended by HC network members and WLLA Participants and A Discussion of Upcoming Events in Phase II of the WLLA (GLTN, YWCA Aids Summit, CSW, CSD, and WUF IV)
- 11:45-1:00 Group Report Backs, Q & A, Synthesis of the Reports
- 1:00-2:00 Lunch

Day 4 Afternoon Session:

- 2:00 -6:00 Review of WLLA Phase One & Way Forward
- 3:15- 3:30 Tea Break
- 3:30 - 6:00 **Reviewing:**
- How We Functioned (from mapping/seed grants to support for small action projects; network meetings to share results and gains, partnering with professionals in large institutions—FAO, UN Habitat, etc, advocating for policy and program change);
 - Gains We’ve Made (at home and in the network—strengthening our organization, acquiring new partners,
 - Improving the lives of women, winning in negotiations/advocacy),
 - Challenges
 - Changes
 - New Opportunities
- a) Participant Panel Discussion to illustrate: gains at home, gains as a network, gains in advocacy
- b) Small Group Discussion of Gains, Challenges, Changes & New Opportunities

- c) Report Backs, Discussion & Synthesis
 - d) Information and Perspective Sharing From the Global Secretariat (Birte and Nicole)
 - e) Merging the results of our morning and afternoon sessions;
Agreement on A Way Forward
-

Day 5: *Planning and Coordination for WLLA Phase II: Governance*

- 9:00-9:15 Temperature and Recap of Day 4
- 9:15-9:30 Setting the Stage for Today: WLLA Way Forward
- 9:30 - 11:00 Break out groups on individual group activity planning for the next Phase of WLLA Activities (*Who wants to do what activities in the next year and with who*)
- 11:00-11:15 *Tea Break*
- 11:15-12:00 Presentation of Plans of Actions between groups
- 12:00-1:00 Discussion of WLLA Advocacy Messages, Collective Tools
- 1:00-2:00 *Lunch*
- 2:00-3:00 Discussion of evaluation and monitoring: present the questionnaire from New York University; work in 3 way teams completing it
- 3:00-3:30 *Tea Break*
- 3:30-6:00 Finalizing Agreements: WLLA Collective Plan//power point presentation
- 6:00 Closing Ceremony Appreciations

WLLA is a partnership project of the Huairou Commission, COHRE (Center on Housing Rights and Eviction).

Local host is UCOBAC (Uganda Community Based Association For Child Welfare)

ANNEX 2: ACTIVE GRASSROOTS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

| Group | Country | Description |
|---|----------|---|
| YEAR ONE | | |
| GROOTS Kenya | Kenya | GROOTS Kenya, a network of over 1,000 grassroots women's groups, was established in 1995 to strengthen the role of grassroots women's groups in community development through direct participation in decision-making, planning and implementation. The group's development agenda includes shelter, environment, income generation, human rights, gender equity, social integration, and moral support. The network collaborates with other African groups on HIV/AIDS pandemic and other regional concerns, facilitates local, regional and international exchanges, and encourages savings groups. |
| Rwanda Women's Network | Rwanda | The Rwanda Women's Network, founded in 1997, is a national humanitarian network of 22 grassroots organizations dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the socio-economic welfare of women and children. It provides medical support, housing, and a supportive community to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence across the country in the recognition that women and children remain the most vulnerable and marginalized groups within Rwanda. |
| Seke Rural Home Based Care | Zimbabwe | Seke Rural Home Based Care works within the Seke district of the Mashonaland province. Seke sets up workshops to train women in the use of basic inheritance laws so that they may learn to invoke legal processes in protecting land and property rights. The organization also provides assistance in handling individual property cases. |
| Ntengwe for Community Development Trust | Zimbabwe | Ntengwe for Community Development Trust has set up support groups in the Binga and Ntengwe districts. Groups address issues such as: child/home based care, information collecting and report writing, counseling, HIV + AIDS, nutrition guidance, and property and inheritance rights. The organization seeks to reduce dependency on NGOs, which they feel are not adequately addressing women's rights to land ownership. Ntengwe helps women to develop skills including income generation and leadership/organizational skills. |
| YEAR TWO | | |
| International Women's Communication Center (IWCC) | Nigeria | IWCC-Nigeria serves as a critical link between the international network of women's rights and development organizations to Nigerian women at the grassroots level. The organization offers programs in governance, conflict resolution, micro-economic enterprise, and girls' education. |
| Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation | Ghana | N/A |

| | | |
|---|--------------|---|
| Ghana Federation for the Urban Poor | Ghana | The Ghana Federation for the Urban Poor & People's Dialogue supports women's work in land, housing, property rights, AIDS, and violence against women. They act within the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. The group strives to set up community help centers, educate women, network with other organizations, and promote national media campaigns concerning women's rights to property. |
| Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group (NVWCIG) | Cameroon | NVWCIG was founded in 1996 to improve the long-term social and economic conditions of women through agricultural and rural development activities that improve women's ability to control and manage their resources. The group works to increase women's ability to produce, process, and market their products, and to increase production yields through the practice of environmentally sustainable methods. Women in the group lead community trainings in agricultural practices, as well as vocational training for youth, community responses to HIV/AIDS, and the establishment of women's credit and savings cooperatives. |
| YEAR THREE | | |
| Land Access Group of South Africa (LAMOSA) | South Africa | LAMOSAs is an independent Community Based Organization (CBO) advocating for land and agrarian rights, substantive democracy, and sustainable development. LAMOSAs was established in 1991 to mobilize dispossessed communities to collectively fight discriminatory colonial and apartheid land laws, racial and gender discrimination, and poverty. LAMOSAs works in partnership with government and Civil Society Organization (CSO) in four provinces - Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northwest and Gauteng. |
| Maasai Women Development Organization (MWEDO) | Tanzania | The Maasai, the largest pastoralist ethnic group in Tanzania, has traditionally lived by a property system based on communal access rights and communal resources. When the government passed land reformation acts, they distributed land rights to men, reinforcing the discrimination against Maasai women, and leaving women vulnerable to a loss of essential resources when men sell the land without consulting women. MWEDO advocates for women's development in the context of the issues of poverty in pastoral communities, illiteracy, gender norms, and property ownership. |
| Uganda Community Based Association for Child Welfare (UCOBAC) | Uganda | UCOBAC was formed in 1990 in response to estimates of 1 million orphans in Uganda caused by the effects of the war, AIDS and other related factors. UCOBAC activities include: Promotion of information exchange in order to increase awareness of the public, NGOs, communities, and individuals about the plight, needs and rights of vulnerable children and women, through advocacy materials and networking; Influencing attitudes of communities in favor of children's and women's welfare; trainings for local NGOs, CBOs, district affiliates leaders and community leaders, in the areas of rights, needs, and development. |
| Nakason-gologa | Uganda | Nakasongologa is a cooperative of 860 women, throughout nine districts of Uganda, and functions as an UCOBAC network member. |

| | | |
|--|---------|--|
| | | |
| Kamyokya Christian Caring Community (KCCC) | Uganda | KCCC is a faith-based, church-based organization, established in 1987, in response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. Twenty-one years later they are serving upwards of 10,000 HIV-positive clients. They are an independent NGO, who partners with UCOBAC. There are few employees and the majority of the staff is volunteer and comprised mostly of women. KCCC's main focus is on clinical care for locals suffering from a range of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. One of the organization's main focuses is the Home-Based Care Alliance. KCCC has a Home-Based Care Giver Center, a school, a feeding center, and a treatment and care center. All of the services they offer are free and as a result they experience high demands, which are often difficult to meet. |
| Association des Femmes pour l'Education et le Bien être des Enfants Orphelins (AFECEO) | Burundi | AFECEO was formed in 1997 initially to aid children traumatized by ongoing conflicts in Burundi. While focused on securing education and other rights for orphans, AFECEO has recognized the need to focus on women, who are often caring for orphans, and has found land rights violations to be one of the most pressing issues. AFECEO focuses its advocacy on the province of Ngozi, yet hopes to influence the entire country to take notice and make change for women to realize their housing and land rights. |
| ITERAMBERE | Burundi | Iterambere is located in the outskirts of Bujumbura, Burundi, and it is committed to promote women's land rights and to assist those who live with HIV/AIDS. They teach women about their rights to land inheritance, through workshop seminars, and have successfully worked with families to have them accept sharing land inheritance with their sisters. They work to fight AIDS-related stigma, and assist those who endure with AIDS, by donating food and materials to those in need, and providing free care from nurses a few days a week. Iterambere also runs a restaurant and raises cows to generate income for their activities. |
| YEAR 4 | | |
| Slum Women Initiative for Development (SWID) | Uganda | Slum Women Initiative for Development (SWID) is a registered Ugandan NGO and a grassroots women's initiative group, with 550 members. They operate on a multi-level approach, including such activities as women's savings club, rotating loans scheme between workshops for women in leadership roles, Civil Literacy courses, business Management and Environmental Conservation techniques. |
| Action for Women and Awakening in Rural | Uganda | AWARE was established in 1998, in the Kaabong district in the North-East of Uganda, originally Kaabong Women's Group Organization in 1998. AWARE works with its paralegal volunteers and home-based care workers to reduce HIV-related stigma and to secure women's land rights. They employ several strategies, including Local-to-Local dialogues, rotating loans, civil literacy courses and a women's center. |

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Environment (AWARE) | | |
| Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP) | Zambia | JWOP is a group made up of seven government and non-government organizations, with 9 support groups in different districts made up of widows and orphans in each. Their overall objective is to address property and inheritance rights and sustenance and livelihoods, using such strategies as Tribunals, Community Paralegals and case study publications and information dissemination. |
| Reseau Des Femmes Pour Le Developpement Durable En Afrique (Women's Network for Sustainable Development in Africa, (REFDAF) | Senegal | Refdaf is a network of women working for sustainable development in Africa, in ten regions of Senegal, for 10,000 women and with 150 grassroots groups. Refdaf employs information sessions on Senegalese laws, confidence building workshops and using the media for issue-raising and awareness. |
| Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ) | Zimbabwe | Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ) was established in 1998 as a registered trust then known as Women Land Lobby Group. It is a network based organization made up of women s organizations individual activists and researchers .Currently, there are 16 network member organizations. WLZ was established to promote the economic empowerment of women through equitable access to, control and ownership of land and land related resources .This is aimed at achieving food and income security at both household and national level. |

Appendix 3: WLLA Member Contact Information

| Contact Name | Group | Location | Phone Number | E-mail |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|--|---|
| NAIRISIAE, Everlyne | GROOTS Kenya | Nairobi, Kenya | 254-722422134 | grootsk@grootskenya.org |
| SHIVUTSE, Violet Murila | GROOTS Kenya | Nairobi, Kenya | 254-724233930 | vshinitse@yahoo.com/ vshivutse@yahoo.com |
| KAMIRI, Hellen | GROOTS Kenya | Nairobi, Kenya | 254-7224633531 | grootsk@grootskenya.org |
| MUKIGA, Annette | Rwanda Women's Network | Kigali, Rwanda | 250-848 8884 | rwawnet@rwanda1.com, balikungeri@yahoo.com |
| MUJAWAMARIYA, Anonciata | Rwanda Women's Network | Kigali, Rwanda | 250-03149279 | rwawnet@rwanda1.com, |
| KANYOGO, Veronica | Seke Rural Home-Based Care | Harare, Zimbabwe | 263 11 802 008; 263 0912990356; 263-42905596 | sekeruralhbc@yahoo.com, vkanyongo@yahoo.com |
| MUSKWE, Juliana | Ntengwe for Community Development Trust | Harare, Zimbabwe | 263 0915419 | ntengwe@mweb.co.zw, julimuskwe@yahoo.co.uk |
| GOROSO-GIWA, Limota | International Women's Communication Center | Lagos, Nigeria | 234-8037148268 | gorosogiwa@yahoo.com, iwcc2002@hotmail.com |
| ILORI, Kemi Grace | International Women's Communication Center | Lagos, Nigeria | 234-8037148268 | iwcc2002@hotmail.com |
| ALHASSAN, Fati | Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation | Ghana | 244 772 643 | cfadenruwel2003@yahoo.com |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| ADU, Janet | Ghana Homeless People's Foundation | Ghana | 243 434 946 | gbewa@yahoo.com ; janetadugfup@yahoo.com |
| BINWIE AZEH KABA, Odyllia | Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group | Yaounde, Cameroon | 237-776 22195; 237 962 02142 | odkaba@yahoo.co.uk ; villagewomen_ntankah@yahoo.com |
| AMAMBO, Bi Henrietta | Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group | North West Province, Cameroon | | villagewomen_ntankah@yahoo.com |
| TJALE, Emily | Land Access Movement Of South Africa (LAMOSA) | Johannesburg, South Africa | 271 1833-1060; 278-23141958 | lamosa@mail.org.za |
| NGALUWA, Esupat | Maasai Women Development Organization (MWEDO) | Arusha, Tanzania | 255-0 784 39 5010 | esupat_3@yahoo.com |
| NDAY WA MBAYO, Beatrice | (MWEDO) | Arusha, Tanzania | 255-789 339716 | mwedo@habari.co.tz |
| NABUKONDE, Matilda | Uganda Community Based Association for Child Welfare (UCOBAC) | Kampala, Uganda | 256 414 222 926/7 (office); 256 772-866968 | ucobac_1990@yahoo.com |
| ENYOGU, Florence | UCOBAC | Kampala, Uganda | 256 414 222 926/7 (office); 256 782-308053 | ucobac_1990@yahoo.com |
| BIRUNGI ODONG, Frances | UCOBAC | Kampala, Uganda | 256 414 222 926/7 (office); 256 772- | ucobac_1990@yahoo.com ; francesbirungi@yahoo.com |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| | | | 926214 | |
| KAYONGO Mutebi, Alice | UCOBAC | Kampala, Uganda | 256 414 222 926/7 (office) | Ucobac_1990@yahoo.com |
| MUKISA, Solome | UCOBAC | Kampala, Uganda | 256 414 222 926/7 (office); 256 77 2374320 | Ucobac_1990@yahoo.com |
| RWASA, Edith | AFECEO | Bujumbura, Burundi | 223 029 03 (office); 79 982 1398 | afeceo@yahoo.fr ; edirwa@yahoo.fr |
| BANYANKIRUBUSA, Dorothee | Iterambere | Bujumbura, Burundi | 257 79904497 | Iterambere@yahoo.fr |
| SCHOLZ, Birte | Huairou Commission | USA | 1 650 743 1189 | birtescholz@gmail.com |
| GANZEKAUFER, Nicole | Huairou Commission | USA | 1 718 388 8915 | Nicole.ganzekaufer@huairou.org |
| SCHILEN, Sadny | GROOTS International | USA | 1 718 388 8915 | grootsss@aol.com |
| UDEMEZUE, Chigozie | COHRE Consultant / representative | Lagos, Nigeria | 8 0234 803 3285060 | gozieudememezue@yahoo.com |
| SHAKAFUSWA, Florence Mpembamoto | Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP) | Lusaka, Zambia | 260-979477605 | fshaka@zamtel.zm |
| MAZUBA, Reginal | Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP) | Lusaka, Zambia | 260 9-774 06473 | moseslangu@yahoo.com |
| CISSE, Madjiguène | REFDAF | Dakar, Senegal | 221 33 8673535 (office); 221 77 5471212 (cell) | monrolan@hotmail.com ; refddaf@sentoo.sn |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| ACIRO, Emily | Slum Women Initiative for Development | Jinja, Uganda | 077-4059036 | swidug2@yahoo.com |
| NANGOBI, Joyce | Slum Women Initiative for Development | Jinja, Uganda | 071-2714177 | swidug2@yahoo.com |
| Loumo, Grace | Action for Women and Awakening in Rural Environment | Uganda | 256 0 772 516 458 | womenstruggle@yahoo.com ; kwgo2003@yahoo.com |
| Agilong, Margret | Action for Women and Awakening in Rural Environment | Uganda | 0772-516458, 0772550798 | womenstruggle@yahoo.com |
| ACIRO, Ritah | Uganda Land Alliance | Uganda | 256 0414 54 0048; 077 221 68041 | halerita@yahoo.com |
| SEBINA ZZIWA, Dr. Awy | Uganda Land Alliance | Uganda | 256 077 240 7179 | abby.sebina@gmail.com ; para@utlonline.co.ug |
| KABAJUNI, Agnes | Women and Housing Rights Program Officer, Africa | Ghana | 233 238823 | agnes@cohre.org |
| AWORI, Thelma | Institute of Social Transformation | Uganda | 256 0772 622 060 | thelmaawori@hotmail.com |
| KIGUNDA KALULE, Eseza | Nakasongola Multipurpose Cooperative Society | Uganda | 256 077 251 4368 | gblubwita@parliament.go.ug |
| NAKISOZI, Mastulla | Kamyokya Christian Caring | Uganda | 256 075352 4741 | - |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Community | | | |
| MUKAMUBANDA, Magret | Kamwokya Christian Caring Community | Uganda | 256 0752937292 | - |
| NAMIREMBE, Hajat Fatume | Kamwokya Christian Caring Community | Uganda | 256 071 285 4722 | - |
| NAKATO, Maureen | Legal Aid Uganda | Uganda | 256 0712834562 | maureennakat0@yahoo.com |
| MUZAMBI, Getrude | Women and Land Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe | 263 79 25936; 263 4 331044 | gertmuz@yahoo.com |
| PALLAS, Sabine | International Land Coalition | Italy | 39 0654 592 586 | s.pallas@landcoalition.org |
| PLAFKER, Karen | Wellspring Advisors | USA | 212 609 2622 | kplafker@wellspringadvisors.com |
| KYOHIRWE, Edivina | Sibabinywere Women's Group | Uganda | 256 0782 954324 | - |
| KUOMUKAMA, Flavia | Nahomed Forum for People Living with HIV Network | Uganda | 256 0772602138; 0312104409 | flaviakyomukama@yahoo.co.uk |

