

Alpha Monthly

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

MARCH, 2013



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Message from CEO**
- **OF conducts value addition training.**
- **OF in advocacy training**
- **OF M&E strengthened**
- **OF planning and review meeting**

Omega Foundation,
Busia Road, Milimani Est.
P.O. Box 3246-40100,
KISUMU- KENYA.

Tel: 0716 527990
0734 527990

info@omegafoundation.or.ke
www.omega-foundation.org

Message from CEO

March 8th is a special day set aside to celebrate women all over the world; their struggles and triumphs. As we commemorated this year's Women's Day images of the injustices that our mothers, daughters, sisters and wives have undergone in the recent past freshly linger in our minds.

One young woman was gang-raped to death in India. Another committed suicide out of a sense of shame after a rape ordeal. And in Afghanistan, young teens were shot at close range for daring to seek an education.

These atrocities and injustices against women sparked international outrage that saw countless people demonstrating and fasting on the streets of the world's biggest cities shouting at the top of their voices for governments to act and put an end to these senseless killings, molestation and harassment of women.

If these injustices were to provoke us as Civil Society Organisations in any way then let them provoke us to turn our outrage into action and to help communities

stump out discrimination against its women and set mechanisms that will see crimes against women reported and prosecuted and much more importantly diminished.

It pains me to look around and see women knowing very well that there is statistical likelihood that many of them have fallen victim to domestic violence in their lifetime. It is time we put our feet down as civil society entities and spread the message that all women and girls have a fundamental human right to live free of violence.

In Kenya however, lack of comprehensive data on the magnitude of sexual violence, traditional practices, poverty and limited resources stand in the way of ending violence against women has dimmed the governments effort to fight the most pervasive human rights violation. It is thus the role of civil societies to take up this fight by all means to ensure that violence against women becomes a thing of the past.

WILFRED OWUOR, C.E.O.

OF conducts value addition training

Omega foundation is keen on promoting economic freedom for the communities it works with. This it aims to achieve through increasing economic opportunities and enhancing capacity of community members to take up activities that would generate income for them.

OF therefore conducted a value addition training for Oweyi Support Group an affiliate that it supports to set up an agri business project.

The training which was facilitated by Otonglo Divisional Agricultural Officer Adah Omedi purposed to enhance knowledge on productive methods of growing cassava, enlighten the group on better ways of handling and storing cassava after harvesting and helping the group to gain knowledge on cassava value chains and their impacts on income.

Oweyi support Group has active 23 members and have established a farm for water melons and another for cassava. They had a bumper cassava harvest but raised concerns of high rates of post harvest losses and a small market for their products.

"We have learnt ways of using our cassava to satisfy many needs as well as earn us more income," said a contented Noah Ogonga the group's Organising Secretary.



Noah Ogonga Oweyi Support Group Secretary General shows the cassava harvest in the groups farm in Osiri Sublocation in Kisumu.

OF in advocacy training

OF attended an advocacy training on policy making and coalition building organized by FANIKISHA. The training was aimed at enabling CSOs to take an active role in the development of effective and acceptable courses of action for addressing what has been placed on the policy agenda as well as ensuring that interested CSOs advocate for policy formulation, implementation or change as one united voice.

During the training, Dr. David Nyamwaya of Masinde Muliro University took the participants through the Public Health Policy, its strategy, role of CSOs in its formation and implementation as well the process of its development. He reiterated that health advocacy was not about just state-of-the-art health facilities but effective health systems.

Also at the training was Morris Odhiambo of the Kenya Civil Society Congress who urged the participants to form coalition if they wanted to be heard and their work felt. He condemned the government for hindering the effort of CSO. “The government should take its place as an enabler and not controller of CSO programmes.”



Participants in a discussion group during the advocacy training.

OF also attended a consultant procurement training aimed at helping CSOs learn how to determine consultant rate. The one-day training was intended to inform the participants on the necessary documents for consultant procurement as well as how to complete them.

OF M&E strengthened

OF's M&E system has been strengthened thanks to FANIKISHA's Routine Data Quality Assessment training. The training served to highlight the importance of data quality assurance and discussed the distinction between data quality audit and RDQA. It explored the conceptual framework for RDQA; Data management and reporting systems as well as dimensions of data quality.

Participants were taken through the RDQA developed by MEASURE evaluation in collaboration with Global Fund and WHO. It enhanced the understanding of purpose and methodology of applying this tool at various M&E levels.

Organisational teams conducted a mock RDQA for their organisation based on the knowledge of their M&E system.

Participants drew action plans for their respective organisations and arrangements would be made to



One of the field visits during the RDQA training

OF Planning and Review meeting

OF organised a 3-day planning and review workshop with its entire project staff. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together OF SMT & Project staff and key implementing partners in the PPFA's funded "Closing the Gap" project to understand the technical requirements, plan, budget and review progress on OF current projects.

On the last day of the meeting, Tony Abbott of FANIKISHA took OF staff through the new annual workplan and budget tool developed to make reporting and budgeting for the FANIKISHA CSOs more efficient and effective. He was accompanied by Wycliffe Ouma FANIKISHA OF focal person.



FANIKISHA and OF staff pose for a picture at the planning and review meeting.

“The only way to get rid of the burden of pending work is to do it.”

-Anonymous