



PROJECT: USING LAW FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN WEST AFRICA

Initiated by :

**Women in Law and Development in Africa-West Africa (WILDAF-AO) /
Femmes Droits et Développement en Afrique (FeDDAF-AO)**

Supported by

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Project name: Using law for rural women's empowerment in West Africa

I. Applicant

a) Name of organisation:

Women in Law and Development in Africa-West Africa (WiLDAF-AO) / Femmes Droits et Développement en Afrique (FeDDAF-AO)

b) Name of contact:

Mrs Kafui ADJAMAGBO-JOHNSON

c) Country or countries where the organisation is established:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and envisages to extend to Liberia, Nigeria, Mauritania and Sierra Leone.

d) Legal form of the organisation : WiLDAF has a legal personality as a non Governmental Organisation

II. Description

1. Summary

The "Using Law as a Tool for the Empowerment of Rural Women" project initiated by the Sub-regional office of WILDAF, West Africa, is in line with the objectives 3 of the Millennium Development Goals and 4 and 7 of the MDG3 Fund. The project is being implemented within a West African context characterised by high gender inequalities in family relations, particularly concerning violence and inheritance, in the areas of access to resources and economic opportunities and access to power and decision-making. The main target and beneficiaries of the project are therefore female members of farmers' organisations in 5 West African countries namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. It also targets traditional authorities, farmers' organisations and government authorities and finally the population both men and women.

The overall objective of the project is to enable women members of farmers' organisations and women of the rural areas in 5 West African countries to know their rights, and to claim them in order to exercise them on the same footing as men in their family, community and professional lives, and ensure their application for the benefit of women in their respective environment.

The project specifically aims at:

- Educating 250 (on the basis of 50 per country) women members of farmers' organisations on the rights recognised to them within the family, community and professional lives, and as citizens;
- Contributing to the reduction of violence against women in the rural areas through the involvement of the communities in combating this phenomenon.
- Ensuring the respect and observance of women's rights in the settlement of family disputes by family and communities structures particularly in issues relating to inheritance;
- Promoting the access of women to full ownership of land or in safe and secure conditions;
- Contributing to the participation of women in decision-making within the communities and in farmers' organisations.

To achieve these objectives, the project shall train a total of 250 women members of farmers' organisations in the 5 countries covered by the project.

These direct beneficiaries of the project will work as volunteers who will carry out awareness-raising actions in order to bring about changes in customs, mentalities and attitudes towards women's rights, and shall be ready to assist the women individually in using the law to resolve difficulties they face within the family and community set-up or even in their economic activities. The volunteers will also initiate actions to combat violence against women in the rural areas. They will thus use an approach involving the communities including men.

Apart from the training sessions, and education, awareness raising and legal counselling activities, the project will carry out actions of advocacy at the community and national levels for women living in the rural areas to have access to inheritance, land ownership, which is indispensable for the development of their agricultural and commercial activities, and for the participation of women in decision-making.

These activities shall be supported through internal and external communication and by establishing a platform for discussions among the beneficiaries and stakeholders through meetings planned at the national and regional levels. A meeting at the commencement of the project will enable stakeholders to develop ownership of the action and to solve certain details relating to the modalities for the implementation of the activities.

The final beneficiaries of the project shall be women of the rural areas whose conditions would improve as far as their family relations, access to land, production resources, and for that matter, their incomes are concerned. The population groups will also benefit from the positive impact of the project, in terms of a more balanced and harmonious family relations, and an improvement in the incomes of women. The project shall span thirty (30) months at the end of which, women farmers' organisations and the communities involved in the implementation of the activities through the community monitoring, mediation and advocacy structures, would be expected to acquire the capacity to continue the actions undertaken in order to consolidate the results obtained.

At the end of the project it is expected to obtain the following results that can be measured using criteria and instruments which are stated in the project:

- 250 women farmers would have known women's rights and would be working to disseminate and apply them within families, the communities and women's economic activities.
- At least 60% of the cases of violence and domestic disputes received, particularly those relating to inheritance would have been settled within the confines of the observance of the rights of women.
- Parcels of land would have been allocated by the local authorities to women farmers with full ownership or in safe and secure conditions for purposes of collective or individual farms.
- A legal framework that seeks to promote equal access of men and women to land in the project countries would have been established.
- Representation of women in community decision-making structures and farmers' organisations would have been improved by at least 30%.

2. Relevance to Millennium Development Goal 3

a) Main principles

The project is based on the principle of universality of fundamental human rights and the one which was affirmed by the 1994 Vienna Conference on Human Rights according to which women's rights are human rights, and thus deserve the same consideration. It thus advocates gender equality which presupposes equal access to rights by the two sexes. It also relies on the responsibility of the State as guarantor of human rights, to implement women's rights.

The approach that will be used for the implementation of the activities of the project would be based mainly on the participation of the beneficiaries, the involvement of men in the women's rights defence activities and the adult education approach in the training activities. To this effect, it is expected to develop ownership of the project by enabling the leaders of the beneficiary women farmers' structures to be familiar with the content of the project and contribute to its finalisation as far as the implementation strategies and concrete modalities are concerned. The concern for a quality participation also led to giving more priority to capacity building activities of the beneficiaries and target groups such as the members of the communities, the leaders of predominantly male farmers' organisations whose contribution is necessary if the women beneficiaries are to enjoy their rights on the same footing as men. The beneficiaries will themselves contribute to the implementation of women's rights through the actions that they shall carry out on voluntary basis (education, awareness raising, legal counselling, and advocacy).

Monitoring, support for the implementation of all the activities and their internal evaluation shall be decisive for the attainment of the results; and these shall mainly be ensured at the regional level by the WILDAF sub-regional office. The office will prepare the terms of reference and the fact sheet for the activities, participate in the training workshops, receive activity reports and prepare the consolidated reports and will be responsible for the transfer of funds to the various countries and the dissemination of information to the countries and outside. At the country level, the monitoring and evaluation of, and technical support to the actions at the local level will be carried out by the national WILDAF offices that shall supervise the preparation of the tools and the conduct of the training sessions, the activities of the paralegals and will draft periodic reports for submission to the regional office. There should be close collaboration between the national offices and the women farmers' organisations in order to enable the latter to monitor the activities and to ensure the contribution of their members.

b) Background and problem

West Africa is the part of the continent with the widest inequalities between men and women as far as civil, political, economic and social rights are concerned. The project countries are facing the same reality. They record the widest gaps between men and women when it comes to access to resources and economic opportunities, power and decision-making.

These observations are obvious, even though all the project countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). At the regional level, the African Union has adopted a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Rights of Women's in Africa, which like CEDAW, prohibits discrimination against women and details civil, political and economic rights that States must promote in order to put an end to right violation and discriminations African women face. The protocol for instance, prescribes consent to marriage and prohibits early marriages and all forms of violence against women. The Protocol encourages monogamy as the legal form of marriage, institutes the principle of equal participation of men and women in political

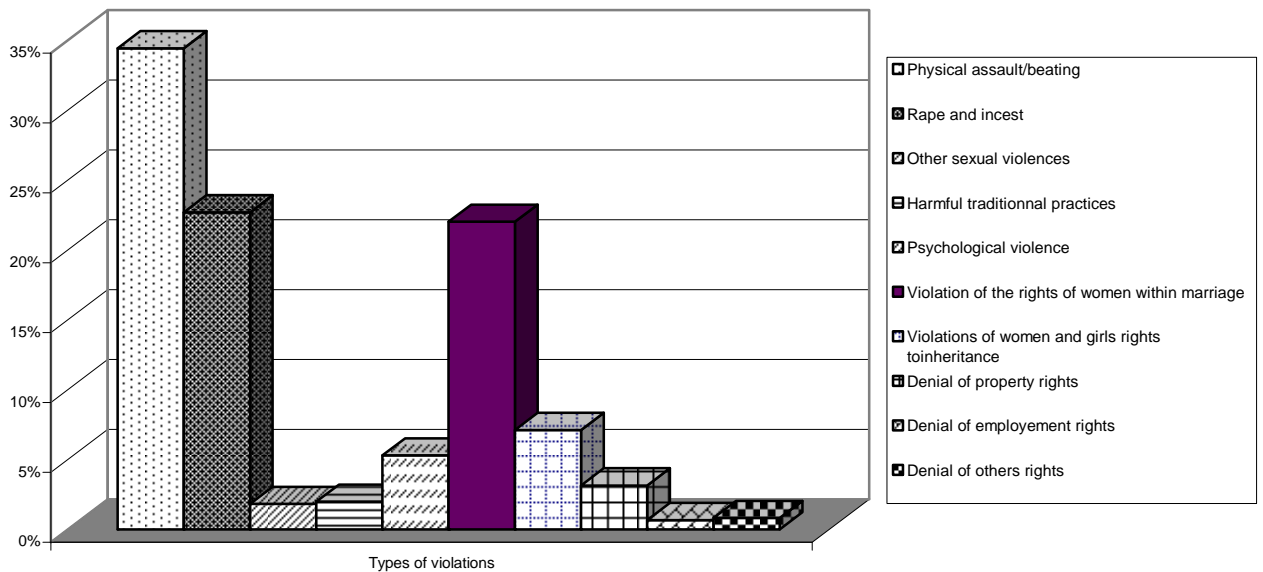
decision-making. The protocol requests States to take the necessary measures to ensure that women have access to land, farming technologies and credit, to boost their economic activities in the informal sectors and in the area of agriculture. 4 out of the 5 project countries have ratified the instrument. Côte d'Ivoire has well advanced in the ratification process. Still at the regional level, the African Union has initiated a process for the adoption of a framework of reference and land policies guidelines in Africa, which aims at encouraging the drafting and implementation of land reforms likely to find solutions to land-related problems in order to boost economic and social development. This well advanced initiative offers prospects for reforms by the countries likely to take on board the issue of equal access by men and women to land. At the national level, all the countries have included the principle of gender equality into their respective constitutions and have laws that deal with violation of rights recognised to women in the various areas.

Several factors account for the ineffective enjoyment of the rights by women on the same footing as men. There is not often a real political will, beyond speeches, to implement the countries' law and policies. The condition of women in those patriarchal societies is also detrimental to recognise in practice gender equality. These societies on the contrary, advocate submission of women in their relationships with men, as men are the holders of the power to make decisions in family and on public matters. The social division of work allocates to women enormous responsibilities which relate to reproduction and the survival of families and communities, whereas the responsibilities of men considered as the providers of income are more touted. Still on the issue of socio-cultural factors, it should first and foremost be observed that illiteracy among women, particularly in rural areas, is an obstacle to the recognition and claim of their rights.

Right violations and numerous cases of discrimination against women account for the disparities mentioned earlier on among men and women and are also the root causes of poverty among women. Indeed, the inequalities that women in particular face are reflected by the multiple forms of poverty, which is not solely restricted to lack of income to satisfy basic needs. Violations of political, economic and social rights of women are part of the causes of structural, economic and social poverty. African women in general and particularly those of the project countries, make up the majority of the poor in rural and urban areas. Despite their dynamism in the agricultural sector, they often have very limited access to land in precarious situations. The customary rules on inheritance are largely responsible for their exclusion from land ownership. Women also lack access to other resources of production, such as credit and inputs. Since they are not often considered as farm owners, they do not have access to farming technologies transmitted to men nor to the other agricultural extension services put at the disposal of major farm owners. Like all women, they are victims of various forms of violence, worsened by customs and traditional beliefs such as forced marriages, female genital mutilation, levirate, physical abuse, just to mention a few.

The situation of women regarding the various forms of violations of women's rights in West Africa is clearly shown in the data collected within the framework of a project implemented by WiLDAF from 2002 to 2004 "awareness raising and capacity building of judicial and extra judicial stakeholders for effective implementation of women's rights in West Africa". Those data were collected in 2003 from the sensitised judicial and extra judicial stakeholders and their peers in West African 7 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo).

Categories of cases handled by target groups



Despite the efforts made to ensure their representation in community development structures for example, women’s participation in community decision-making structures is far less than that of men.

The awareness of the correlation between poverty and violation of women’s rights compelled the international community to include the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment in the Millennium Development Goals. In order to maximise the chances of attaining the millennium goals, it is therefore important to ensure that women effectively benefit from the rights that are recognised to them. This can only be possible if they know these rights and demand that they be respected by individuals and State authorities who are responsible for the implementation of fundamental human rights of the individual.

The organisation’s motives for submitting the proposal

As a network operating in the area of women’s rights to ensure development, WILDAF is aware of the need to fight for the emergence of a culture of exercising and respecting women’s rights and makes it its foremost mission. Believing that women can use law as a tool that would enable them to contribute to the development of their communities and countries, the network set down to carry out legal literacy actions on women’s rights while giving priority to advocacy with the view to improving the legal framework for women’s rights promotion at national and regional levels. After a decade of activity in West Africa, significant strides have been made for a better awareness of the problems arising in terms of women’s rights, the awareness of the latter on the need to claim these rights, improvement of the legal framework and awareness raising of various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the role they have to play for women’s rights implementation. Unfortunately, it is observed that these actions do not reach women of the rural areas as expected; ironically, it is also in this environment that we find strong resistance against gender equality. Much emphasis was not laid on the link between the violation of the rights and the situation of marginalisation in which a large majority of women working in the informal and primary sector particularly agriculture find themselves. An in-depth work with women in rural areas will therefore make it possible to amplify the impact of activities so far carried out and use the law to secure a better participation of women in development, according to the mission of the network. Through this action, the network intends to intensify its activities towards the effective implementation of the rights it has contributed to make known; it would contribute to taking a

giant step toward a far-reaching change in mentalities and the taking root of gender equality in the daily realities of the population groups.

c) Subjects

The project falls in line with the priorities 3 of the MDGs namely promoting equality and empowerment of women. Although the indicators retained concern girls and boys' education and the representation of women in decision-making structures, it is obvious that gender equality cannot be linked solely to these issues; women suffer disparities and discrimination in all aspects of their lives. The project also aims at:

- reducing inequalities in the family environment, particularly in the access to inheritance and violence against women;
- contributing to the access to land resources by women working in the agricultural sector; and
- improving women's participation in decision making in the family and community lives, and within farmers' organisations. By improving women's access to land and inheritance, it will contribute to the reduction of poverty of the latter.

Finally, through the planned awareness raising activities for the communities, the project meets the concern to act on the cultural factors on which these gender inequalities are based.

3. Target group

The project is implemented to the benefit of rural women working in the agricultural sector who are part of the marginalised target groups taking very little advantage of the impact of development. These women are organised into groupings according to the agricultural sub-sector in which they operate. Since 2000, they have been forming coordination in their countries along with the farmers' organisations. In the sub-region, the national farmers' organisations are brought together in a network called ROPPA (*Network of farmers and agricultural producers organisation of West Africa*). The women colleges within the farmers organisations coordination, are platforms in which women farmers discuss their peculiar issues and seek solutions to them.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the project will also be beneficial to women who are victims of violence arising from the conflict their country experienced, as well as women displaced and refugees who returned to their localities after the war and who must be supported in their new economic activities for their rehabilitation.

4. Countries of the project

The activities will be carried out in West Africa and more precisely in 5 countries in the sub-region, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. These countries have been selected based on several criteria that ensure a minimum homogeneity that makes possible the systematisation of the project approach, exchange and the comparison of results. These criteria include the existence of WiLDAF national networks, existence of women farmers' colleges within farmers' organisations and the ratification of the CEDAW and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to Women's Rights by these countries, these being the two reference instruments on gender equality. The regions to be covered in these countries will be subsequently determined by a mutual agreement with the beneficiaries according to the representation of farmers' organisations in the countries while ensuring that all the relevant agricultural sub-sectors benefit from the project.

In the project countries, the project will rely on the WiLDAF national networks which have the expertise and the institutional and operational capacity necessary for the implementation of the activities in collaboration with the colleges of women farmers' organisations that will participate in decision-making concerning the project, facilitate the contact with their members and will transmit information to the latter.

5. Intervention strategy

a) Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to enable women members of farmers' organisations and women of the rural areas in 5 West African countries to know their rights, and to claim them in order to exercise them on the same footing as men in their family, community and professional lives, and ensure their application for the benefit of women in their respective environment.

The project specifically aims at:

- educating 250 (on the basis of 50 per country) women members of farmers' organisations on the rights recognised to them within the family, community and professional lives, and as citizens;
- contributing to the reduction of violence against women in the rural areas through the involvement of the communities in combating this phenomenon.
- ensuring the respect and observance of women's rights in the settlement of family disputes by family and communities structures particularly in issues relating to inheritance;
- promoting the access of women to full ownership of land or in safe and secure conditions;
- contributing to the participation of women in decision-making within the communities and in farmers' organisations.

b) Results

The expected results of the project are as follows:

- 250 women farmers know women's rights and are working to disseminate and apply them within families, the communities and women's economic activities.
- At least 60% of the cases of violence and domestic disputes received, particularly those relating to inheritance are settled within the confines of the observance of the rights of women.
- Parcels of land are allocated by the local authorities to women farmers with full ownership or in safe and secure conditions for purposes of collective or individual farms.
- There is a legal framework that seeks to promote equal access of men and women to land in the project countries.
- The representation of women in community decision-making structures and farmers' organisations has improved by at least 30%.

The prerequisites for the effectiveness of women's rights and reduction in discrimination against women are in the knowledge of their rights by women, the populations groups and the commitment of the community and the State to ensure their respect. The awareness raising, education and advocacy activities that will be carried out will contribute to progress in the area of these issues. They will awaken the conscience of the victims of violence and other violation of rights; they will arouse the commitment of the communities through the community structures that will be established, restore the victims in their rights through mediation and advocacy actions by which women's rights will be better respected in the family environment, particularly through the reduction of violence and the respect of women and girls' rights to inheritance. Finally, through these actions, the women farmers will have access to land, and the land reforms that will be conducted during the lifespan of the project

will consider the principles of equal access of women to land on the same footing as men. By achieving thus an equal treatment of women and men within the family and community environment and in access to land, the project would contribute to the achievement of the Goals 3 of the MDGs, 4 and 7 of the MDG3 Fund.

c) Activities:

The activities planned to achieve the expected results are:

- project meeting to develop project ownership;
- training of 250 women paralegals among the members of women farmers' organisations;
- campaign on women's rights and gender equality (communities legal rights education, legal assistance to women, and establishment of community committees to combat violence against women);
- advocacy for the access of women to land ownership;
- advocacy for the access of women to decision-making structures;
- two exchange meetings at the regional and national levels;
- communication.

Meeting to develop ownership

The first activity of the project will be a three-day meeting at the headquarters of WILDAF sub-regional office in Lome that will bring together three representatives per country of the WILDAF network and women farmers' organisations. A representative of the ROPPA headquarters based in Burkina Faso will also be invited.

The meeting will enable participants to get familiarised with the content of the project, to prepare a more detailed and operational planning of the activities over the entire duration of the project and to solve, according to the context of each country participating in the project, the details on some modalities for the implementation of the project. This briefing meeting will be held latest just after the end of the first month the project.

Training of 250 women paralegals among the members of women farmers' organisations

- **Development of tools and workshops for trainers**

Before the training workshops, the appropriate tools will beforehand be developed under the supervision of the WILDAF sub-regional office, with the support of resource persons recruited at the level of each country. The modules to be developed will relate to women's rights in the family environment, including those relating to inheritance and violence, the rights relating to women's economic activities and those relating to their citizenship, namely the issue of their participation in decision-making. In addition modules on communication techniques, the methodology of community legal rights education, lobbying and advocacy will be developed. The modules will be developed with a participatory approach which will involve the resources persons who will be used as facilitators for the trainings. A first draft produced by some of the resource persons will be circulated in all the countries to collect comments and suggestions from all those who will be facilitators. This methodology will ensure that the training approach is harmonised for all the countries, and will allow the facilitators to be familiar with the adopted training methodology. The facilitators will be selected among experienced trainers in the area of legal rights education for adults.

Women's training workshops

250 women will receive training on the basis of 50 per country according to the training generally given to paralegals. Each country will have to organise two series of training sessions. Each training session will be conducted in two stages and will bring together 25 persons for five days in each of the stages. During the first stage, the trainees, future

paralegals will undergo training on the basic notions in the area of human rights as contained in the various modules. They will be requested to practice the knowledge they have acquired. The second stage of the training will be organised in the beginning of the second year to deepen the various aspects addressed during the 1st stage in order to ensure a consolidation of knowledge and the know-how necessary to fulfil their responsibilities as paralegals. The recruitment will be carried out by the women farmers' colleges according to the following criteria: representation of the major agricultural sub-sectors vested by women; availability to participate in a campaign on a voluntary basis; communication abilities and if possible influence in the locality of residence. As much as possible, at least two women paralegals will be trained per locality.

The first stage of the training sessions will take place during the first year at convenient periods for women farmers to be trained, and will be conducted in the local languages used in the localities of the beneficiaries. The tools used for the training will be handed over to the trained persons to serve as aide-mémoire and support their post-training activities during the campaign. The training sessions will be carried out by persons who have a good knowledge of women's problems, persons who are beforehand familiar to the adult education methodology and who can intervene in the major local languages in the countries. At the end of the training, they will be equipped with training tools, registers, forms and other tools deemed necessary for the success of their action on the field.

Campaign on women's rights and gender equality

Just after the training sessions, a campaign on women's rights and gender equality will be conducted in each country and shall cover the various localities of the persons trained. This campaign that will come to an end with the completion of the project will have many components that are:

- basic legal education for the communities and women
- counselling and legal assistance to women
- combating violence against women

Basic legal education

The legal education for the communities and women will be carried out within the women farmers' organisations, during normal meetings, and through meetings that will be organised in the communities of the persons trained. The approach that will be adopted shall be that of community legal education. It will involve local authorities and opinion leaders. The topics that will be addressed will relate to gender inequalities observed in the communities and relating to the project specific concerns

Counselling and legal assistance to women

The persons trained will be at the disposal of women who encounter difficulties in their communities of residence in order to provide them with counselling and undertake mediation that will enable women whose rights are violated to put an end to these violations. Upon mutual agreement with the victims, the women paralegals could refer to the traditional structures for dispute settlement for those cases that would not have been settled through mediation. As a last resort, they will refer to state tribunals to settle those cases which would not have been settled either through mediation according to women's rights nor by the traditional structures for dispute settlement.

Combating of violence against women

Due to the sensitive nature of the issue, a community approach will be used to combat violence against women. Following an awareness raising of the authorities and opinion leaders on the issue, a committee for combating violence against women will be established in each country and in each of the localities covered in order to intervene in the settlement of cases of violence. These committees will be made up of women and men and will also include paralegals of the community. A two-day training workshop is planned for each

committee in order to empower them to understand issues of violence and to ensure that in their activities they will adopt an approach that respects women's rights. The trained women paralegals just like the committees will progressively document their activities and will report every three months to the project national coordination.

Advocacy for access of women to land property

The advocacy for the access of women to ownership will also begin after the training sessions. It shall be carried out at the local and national levels in each country.

The advocacy at the local level will first start with a meeting with the community; this meeting will enable the members of the community to find out by themselves the marginalisation of women with respect to access to land, as well as the consequences of this situation on families, the community and women themselves. The issue of non-access to land shall be related to that of inheritance. The advocacy will be continued through permanent discussions with the local authorities who have decision-making powers on land acquisition in the village, in order to obtain allocations as title of ownership for women members of farmers' organisations working in collective farms. Exceptionally, the project will also consider the possibility to carry out some of these activities to the benefit of individual women who are making difference in their agricultural activities.

At the national level, a study shall be conducted in each country on land policies and women access to land. The results of the study will help to carry out an advocacy action for the adoption of land reforms in which WILDAF members, women farmers' organisations and other structures of the civil society that will won over the cause will participate. The advocacy action will target parliamentarians and members of administrations and governments. Within the framework of this action, working sessions, meetings and information and reflection days on the content of the reforms are scheduled, particularly with the parliamentarians.

Advocacy for women's access to decision-making

The advocacy action for women's access to decision-making shall also be conducted at the community level and within farmers' organisations in each country. At the community level, the same approach proposed for the advocacy for access to land shall be adopted.

Within the farmers' organisations, one-day meetings will be scheduled with the bureau of the farmers' organisations and women's college in order to sensitise them on women's rights, in terms of participation in decision-making and reflect on the strategies to be implemented for a better representation of women in decision-making bodies.

Exchange meetings at national and regional levels

Two exchange meetings per annum will be held during the second and third years of the project at national and regional levels. They will meet the need to establish a platform for exchange and reflection for the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project. The activity will contribute to their capacity building for a better effectiveness on the field. They could share the good practices on which the implementation could be built on the field and lessons will be learnt from the failures in order to improve the results of the project. Resource persons at the national and sub regional level will assist in the analysis and systematisation of the participants' experiences to enable them take better advantage of the action for the continuation of the project. The regional exchange meeting of the third year will be at the same time a final internal evaluation meeting of the project.

In total, 30 participants are expected to attend the national meetings that will last 2 days. The regional meetings will last 3 days each and will bring together 25 participants the second year and 30 the second year.

Communication

Communication will play an important role in the implementation of the project. It shall involve internal and external communication. At the national level, the communication activities will be carried out by the programme officers and at regional level by a communication officer. They will be built on the new information and communication technologies.

Regarding internal communication, information on the project implementation and any information relating to the concerns of project and that could be useful to the stakeholders and beneficiaries will be sent on regular basis to the various countries. Hence, information will be sought particularly in areas relating to the concerns of the project such as access to agricultural credit, outlets for agricultural products, or any other area that will be useful for the contribution of the project to the empowerment of women farmers. The project and stakeholders and beneficiaries will be provided with a column in the WILDAF quarterly newsletter whose 12 issues will be published during the lifespan of the project.

Apart from communication with outside, the external communication shall consist in the creation of a website for the project in order to publish relevant information concerning the project and addressing its concerns. It will also be meant to ensure a visibility for the partners and the project through the publication of the results and good practices as they are available.

Finally, the project communication strategy will integrate participation in relevant meetings with regards to the activities that shall be carried out and to the visibility of the project. During some sub-regional, regional and international meetings that are inter-government meetings, the project will take advantage of the opportunity of NGOs parallel events for to organise activities aimed at ensuring the visibility information on the action of the project and exchanging with other organisations of the civil society.

External evaluation:

After the last regional exchange meeting that will be at the same time an internal evaluation meeting, an external independent evaluation of the project activities shall be planned. This evaluation shall be conducted by a team of two bilingual consultants; the countries will be split among them and they will draft a joint report as external evaluation. After 2 days of briefing to the sub regional office, the team will visit the project on the field during 10 days in each country. The outcomes will be pooled and a debriefing is also planned once again to take place at the headquarters after the field visit and before the drafting of the formal evaluation report which will take 15 days. Another extra deadline of 15 days will be granted to the team to finalise the report after the comments of the countries and the sub regional office should send them 15 days after reception of the first draft of the report.

d) Resources

The following resources are required:

Resource persons for the development of the training tools and the training;
Project staff for the coordination, support and monitoring of activities at national and regional levels;
Financial resources for the tools, training and allocation for paralegals ;
Equipment for the training workshop;
Computer facilities

At least 60% of the cases of domestic violence and disputes, particularly those relating to inheritance would have been settled within the confines of the observance of the rights of women.

Resource persons to train the committees for the fight against violence at the community level
Staff to coordinate support and monitoring of activities at national and regional levels
Training tools.
Supplies and working tools
Paralegals and voluntary members of local committees for combating violence against women
Financial resources to cover the training costs, the operating cost of the committees for combating violence against women

Parcels of land would have been allocated by the local authorities to women farmers with full ownership or in safe and secure conditions for purposes of collective or individual farms.

Training of women paralegals
Financial resources for the campaign activities
Staff for the coordination, support and monitoring of the activities at the national and regional levels

A legal framework that seeks to promote equal access of men and women to land in the project countries would have been established.

Resource persons for the studied
Women paralegals trained and members of women's organisations including women farmers
Operating costs for the advocacy (reproduction of studies, meetings, working lunches with parliamentarians and administrative authorities, transportation, telephone charges, etc.)

Representation of women in community decision-making structures and farmers' organisations would have been improved by at least 30%.

Training of women paralegals trained and members women farmers' college on voluntary basis
Staff for the coordination, support and monitoring at national and regional levels
Cost for the training of farmers' organisations bureau members and cost of advocacy at the community level (transportation, communication, duplication of materials, etc.)

f) Risk analysis

The first risk that can affect the implementation of the project has to do with the availability of leaders of farmers' organisations and their members to participate in the project. There have already been preliminary discussions with the officers of the regional network which brought together farmers' organisations of the project countries and with a women's college in order to ascertain the relevance of the activities to be carried out together and their availability to collaborate.

Concerning the criteria for recruiting women who will be trained, the voluntary participation in the activities will be a determining factor for the selection of those to be retained. A minimum running cost will equally be made available to the women's colleges to cover expenses relating to the collaboration with the project such as telephone and mail costs. Besides, the periods to be planned for the training and other activities which require their involvement will be arranged with the women themselves according to their farming timetable.

A political risk of the activity lies in the onset of socio-political unrests in a given country. The situation will be examined at an appropriate time to allow for carrying out the activities once

the calm is restored and in order to reduce as much as possible any delay of concerned country in comparison with the others.

Resistance of conservative forces particularly in rural areas is another risk. In order to minimise this risk, the activities carried out at local level will be based on the methodologies of community legal rights education which are likely to enable the entire community (men, women, local authorities and community leaders) to know women's rights and become aware of their individual or collective responsibilities to make them respected. The approach that will be used, will lead the communities as a community themselves to recognise as priorities the issues that the project is addressing.

6. Description of the project's intended results

a) Specific

The overall objective which is to enable women members of farmers' organisations and women of rural areas in 5 West African countries to know their rights and claim them in order to exercise them on the same footing as men in their family, community and professional life, requires training activities in order to convey necessary knowledge and abilities to a core group of women (250 in total) in order to duplicate the activity. The duplication is expected through a series of activities combined in the Campaign for women's rights and gender equality that will be documented (community legal rights education, legal assistance to women through individual counselling, setting up community committees to fight violence against women). These activities are likely to allow for attaining the results of 60% of cases of violence and family disputes, particularly those related to problems of inheritance settled according to women's rights. They will also contribute to the achievement of the specific objectives of reducing violence against women in the rural areas through the involvement of communities in the fighting against the phenomenon and respecting women's rights in the settlement of family disputes by family or community structures.

The specific objective which is to promote the access of women to full ownership of land or in safe and secure conditions will be achieved through the advocacy activity for the access of women to ownership. The components of this activity are the advocacy for the allocation of land at local level and for the taking into account of equal access of women and men to land. They will lead to the allocation of parcels of land by the local authorities to women farmers with full ownership or in safe and secure conditions providing guarantees for a sustainable exploitation and to the existence of legal framework that seeks to promote equal access of men and women to land.

The objective which is to contribute to the women's participation in decision-making within the communities and in farmers organisations shall be achieved through advocacy. The target will be local authorities and those whose are in charge of the farmers' organisations as well as their members; this objective is likely to improve the representation of women in community decision-making structures and farmers' organisations by at least 30%.

b) Measurable

250 women farmers know women's rights and are working to disseminate and apply them within families, the communities and women's economic activities.

To date the women members or farmers' organisations have not received any training in the area of women's rights, particularly concerning violence against women, inheritance and right to access to property. At the end of the project, 250 women would have been trained and would be committed in working for women's rights and gender equality in their communities. The results will therefore be measured on the basis of the number of persons who will be trained by the project and engaged.

At least 60% of the cases of violence and domestic disputes, particularly those relating to inheritance would have been settled within the confines of the observance of the rights of women.

Violence against women is generally tolerated and even justified in the communities of the beneficiaries of the project. The settlement of cases of physical abuse is often in favour of men, the recommended solution been to further urging women victims to put an end to their behaviour that justifies the abuses. The harmful traditional practices such as forced marriages, levirate, and female genital mutilation are also justified by the population groups. In family disputes, the exclusion of women and girls from inheritance is part of the approved practices and the other types of disputes are generally settled against women. Henceforth it will be important to see now how these issues are settled thanks to the project. The indicators will therefore be linked to cases referred and handled by the women paralegals trained and the committee for control of violence as well as to the content of the solutions.

Parcels of land are allocated by the local authorities to women farmers with full ownership or in safe and secure conditions for purposes of collective or individual farms.

The situation of land cultivated by women members of farmers' organisations participating in the project will be assessed at the beginning of the project, in order to sensitise the community and the authorities. The indicators for measuring the results attained will be formulated from the change that the project would have brought about with respect to the access of women to land.

There is a legal framework that seeks to promote equal access of men and women to land in the project countries.

The study planned within the framework of advocacy will assess the situation of equal access of men and women to land in rural areas. The results sought will be measured through the improvements brought about by the reforms in comparison with the original situation.

The representation of women in community decision-making structures and farmers' organisations has improved by at least 30%.

The initial situation within the community and farmers' organisations will be assessed by the trained women paralegals and the project staff to serve as the basis for advocacy. The measuring indicators will relate to the improvements brought about with respect to the access of women to decision-making positions.

c) Acceptable

The results attained by project are acceptable for women, who at the time of the identification of the project, shared the same diagnosis and approved the expected results. The legal education and awareness raising actions are meant to persuade the other target groups, namely the members of the community and the authorities to support the initiative. The existence of community committees for combating violence against women will be the visible expression of this support.

d) Realistic

A period of thirty (30) months was chosen to enable the project attain the expected results. In order not to waste time, the campaign activities will start successively in the project countries

as from the end of the first training session. The studies which will also start as from the first quarter of the project will be completed on time to launch lobbying activities for the integration of equal access to land in the policies and laws relating to land. Adequate human and financial resources have been planned at the national and regional level.

e) Time-related

The planning of the activities satisfies a desire of realism and a need to achieve results at the end of the project. It is for this reason that training sessions are spread over the first three quarters of the year.

7. Sustainability

a) Sustainability of the activity:

The following components of the project could combine to bring about the sustainability of the activities. The training of women will arouse among them awareness and will enable them acquire the knowledge likely to mobilise and empower them to contribute to the community legal education activities, awareness raising, counselling of women and advocacy for women's rights. This capacity building and this motivation are the major components on which the women farmers' organisations and colleges could rely to continue the activities beyond the project.

The availability of training tools will help women farmers' organisations and colleges, or any other stakeholder to reproduce the training activities. Finally, reforms which would have been obtained in the access of women to land establish a framework for the sustainable access of women to land in rural areas.

b) Involvement of the target group

The involvement of women farmers' organisations and national colleges established to defend their interests is likely to facilitate the integration of activities into their own programmes at the end of the project. They have already been consulted during the identification phase of the project that preceded the submission of this proposal. They will also be involved during all the activities in decision making relating to the recruitment of trainees, content of the training tools, organisation and monitoring of activities. The communities themselves will be involved in the analysis of their problems through the community legal rights education method. They will participate in the action fighting violence against women, and through the local committees for combating violence against women, which is also an important factor of sustainability of activities at the end of the project.

8. Ensuring quality, monitoring and evaluation

a) Quality of objectives

Overall objective: Enable women members of farmers' organisations and women of the rural areas in 5 West African countries to know their rights, and to claim them in order to exercise them on the same footing as the men in their family, community and professional lives.

The impact will be measured by how often women's rights are respected in the settlement of family disputes, including those related to inheritance and to land, the level of access of women farmers to land and to decision-making structures and positions in the community

and within their organisations. The standards recognised by the national laws and the regional and international instruments will serve as measuring instruments.

Specific objectives

Educate 250 (on the basis of 50 per country) women members of farmers' organisations on the rights recognised to them within the family, community and professional lives, and as citizens.

The criteria which will be used to measure the impact of this specific objective will include the persons trained, the content of the training and the results of the evaluation of the training. The measuring instruments will be the number of people to be trained by the project, the national, regional and international legal standards in force to which the content of the training must conform, the satisfaction and the self-assessment of the assimilation of the training by the women trained.

Contribute to the reduction of violence against women in the rural areas through the involvement of the communities in combating this phenomenon;

The impact criteria will be the existence of community structures to combat violence, the cases handled in accordance with the legal provisions in force; the results of the monitoring of the cases handled. The measuring instruments will be the composition of the structures, the national, regional and international standards relating to violence against women to which the solutions must conform, the continuation or not of violence in the cases handled.

Ensure the respect and observance of women's rights in the settlement of family disputes by family and communities structures particularly in issues relating to inheritance.

The impact will be measured on the basis of respect of women rights in the settlement of family disputes including those related to inheritance that have been referred to and handled by the trained women paralegals. The measuring instrument will be the standards recognised by the laws in force at the national level and the regional and international instruments on women's rights.

Promote the access of women to full ownership of land or in safe and secure conditions.

The impact criteria will be effective access of women to land; the nature of the rights; the activity carried by women on these parcels of land. The measuring instrument will be the standards governing land entitlement, the types of farming on the lands by the owners of the area.

Contribute to the participation of women in decision-making within the communities and in farmers' organisations.

The impact criteria will be the effective participation of women in decision-making structures and positions in the community and within the farmers' organisations. The instrument for assessment will be the composition of the community structures which women would have joined, the status of the decision-making structures in which they would have accessed to decision-making.

b) Quality of results

250 women farmers know women's rights and are working to disseminate and apply them within families, the communities and women's economic activities.

The criteria for the assessment of the impact will be persons trained and the activities carried out towards the effective implementation of the rights. The measuring instruments will be the number of persons likely to be trained by the project; the capacity of the activities to lead to

the respect of women rights assessed in terms of scopes of actions, types of actions, target groups reached.

At least 60% of the cases of domestic violence and disputes, particularly those relating to inheritance would have been settled within the confines of the observance of the rights of women.

The impact criteria will be the percentage of cases handled, in conformity with women's rights. The instruments for assessment will be the number of cases referred, and the national, regional and international standards in force in the country.

Parcels of land are allocated by the local authorities to women farmers with full ownership or in safe and secure conditions for purposes of collective or individual farms.

The impact criteria for the assessment will be the effective allocation of lands to women, the use that has been made of it. The instruments for the assessment will be the usual type of farming on the lands by the owners.

There is a legal framework that seeks to promote equal access of men and women to land in the project countries.

The impact criteria will be the consideration of equal access to land through land reforms. The instrument of assessment will be the regional and international standards in force.

The representation of women in community decision-making structures and farmers' organisations has improved by at least 30%.

The impact criteria will be the improvement of women's representation in decision-making structures. The instrument for assessment will be their position in the decision making structures in the community and within the farmers' organisations.

c) Availability of resources

The most important vital resources for the implementation of the activities are the human resources not remunerated by the project.

The availability of women paralegals who are not remunerated by the project will be evaluated on the basis of the effective service delivered. The instrument for assessment will be the terms of reference which will be mutually agreed upon during their training.

The availability of members of the community structures for combating violence against women shall also be evaluated on the basis of the effective service delivered. The instrument for assessment will be terms of reference established during the training of the members of these structures.

III. Description of the organisation

b) Organisational structure

The WILDAF network has developed expertise in the area of education on women's rights and as such has several related publications at national and regional levels.

In addition, it has expertise in the area of advocacy for the adoption of reforms through actions it has initiated and is carrying out in this area at the national and regional level. These activities have brought about reforms as far as family law and violence against women are concerned in the various countries of the sub-region. At the sub-regional level, these activities have resulted in the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights relating to Women's Rights in Africa.

c) The organisation's support base

WILDAF is organised into national networks in the project countries. These networks are made up of organisations working on various aspects of the issue of women's rights and development as well as individuals won over the same cause. These organisations are participating in the implementation of the regional projects identified and initiated with sub-regional office and the national office. These projects are often upstream from their activities and hence create the most favourable conditions for the implementation of the programmes that these organisations individually initiate. The national offices have headquarters and staff on whom the project can rely to support the project implementation by the programme officer to be recruited and put at disposal.

d) Method

On a regional programme basis, which involves members, the network main strategy is to empower women in order that they know their rights and to make use of their rights for their own development and contribute to the development of their communities and their countries. Aware of the fact that the implementation of women's rights does not depend solely on the latter, apart from the education of the population groups, WILDAF targeted government officials, traditional authorities, legal practitioners and their auxiliaries who have a role to play in the implementation of women's rights.