

Empowering women and children in Africa to sustain health and development



Wezesha Annual Report 2013

Introduction

2013 was a busy and exciting year for Wezesha. The organization work progressed significantly and great achievements were realized during the year. Wezesha received charitable status during the year, the directors managed to pay two country visits, one to Kenya and one to DRC, process to develop the strategic plan was undertaken and seven volunteers and interns supported the work of the organization during the year. Wezesha was able to raise small funds from the annual charity ball and women mini marathon. Wezesha DRC was also formally established. The report below is a narrative of activities that took place between April 2013 to April 2014 following our three key strategies, organizational development, awareness raising and Community Development.

1. Organizational development

Wezesha successfully registered as a charity and received charitable status CHY 21074 in March 2014. The board met six times during the year. Wezesha accounts were audited and submitted to the company registration office by our auditors Derivan & Company. Annual general meeting was held in October 2013. A wide range of stakeholders were involved with the organization during the year, this include international NGOs working in Africa, the African Diaspora in Ireland and policy makers.

Egide Dhala relocated to DR Congo from October 2013 to January 2014 and was later on joined by Salome Mbugua to initiate the ground work in this pilot country. As a result, Wezesha DRC was founded and legally registered as a company limited by guarantee and leaders were trained by both directors in order to put in place a proper governance structure. The Organization also started mobilizing the women at grassroots level and has so far registered 400 members.

During their field visit in DRC, the two directors established linkage with two orphans in Kinshasa run by religious congregations and donated clothes and food to both groups.

A new website was launched in December 2014. New social media, blog, twitter and Facebook were launched with the support of a new social media and communication officer intern. Two other interns, an event co-coordinator/community organizer and an international development officer, together with two student interns, were involved with the organisation over the year. Discussion on replacing the organization current logo by a new one to be finalized toward the end of the year and the process of developing the strategic plan 2015-2019 were put in place. Annual charity ball and fundraiser was held in September and raised 3000 euros. Small funds were also collected from women mini marathon and funding application was submitted to the rotary for Capacity building project in DR Congo.



In January Egide Dhala was selected by the Department of foreign affairs, Conflict resolution unit to join the Ireland consultative group in the development of Ireland second national Action plan on women peace and security, resolution 1325. Salome Mbugua is also a member of the consultative and monitoring group with the same unit. The group meets several times during the year.

The Organization has been preparing to make a submission to DFA upon their call in the development of Ireland 2nd national action plan on women peace and security.

2. Awareness raising

Wezesha was involved in the organization of Africa day; Egide Dhala and Salome Mbugua were in the advisory group. The organisation was given a store to display products collected from groups and organizations in Africa. Wezesha leaflets were distributed on the day and more awareness about Wezesha work was raised. Africa day 2013 that took place on May 25th at farneleigh was estimated to have a turnout of fifty thousand people. Eight people participated on women mini marathon in June with Wezesha printed T-shirts.



A joint event with Akidwa and Congolese women group was held at the Irish aid volunteering centre to raise awareness on the situation of women in DRC. The seminar was a success, with great presentations from Dearbhal on her film from DRC. Gillian Wylie, professor and head of conflict resolution unit at Trinity College and Caroline Munyi, a PhD student at Trinity were among the speakers. The event was well advertised in advance and there was a good turnout



After a successful mapping out of women with small enterprises in Githurai 44, Kenya, a conference was held to discuss the outcome and strategize on the way forward. The conference, titled Women Economic Empowerment, was a very successful event that brought one hundred and twenty women together. Presentations ranged from government representatives to women running small businesses. Egide Dhala and Salome Mbugua were also among the speakers, focusing on Wezesha empowerment approach.



In July 2013 Salome Mbugua, Wezesha director, participated in the Diaspora Meeting at Berlin that brought members of the African diaspora from different European countries to discuss and make contribution in advance of the high level discussion on migration and development that took place in Washington in September 2013.

A Charity Ball that brought over one hundred and thirty people was held in September 2013, raising awareness of Wezesha work as well as collecting fund for its projects.



3. Community Development

Wezesha efforts during the year focused on reaching out the African diaspora in Ireland. In October 2013, a meeting was held in Athlone that gathered over 20 people. Through group activities, Wezesha directors sensitized the participants on issues that the Organization is endeavoring to address in Africa. The African diaspora group was also mobilized to attend awareness raising meetings and to support the organization with fundrasing efforts. As mentioned above, Egide Dhala, Wezesha director, relocated to DRC for three months from October 2013 to establish wezesha through grassroots work with women in Kinshasa and when joined by Salome in December 2013, they delivered capacity building and GBV training to the group and set Clear strategies and objectives of the Organization. The Fistula clinic that Wezesha visited in 2012 in Kinshasa benefited of a further visit by Egide Dhala and Salome Mbugua who celebrated Christmas 2013 with the fistula patients. The party was sponsored by Wezesha. A formal collaboration between Wezesha and the clinic was agreed upon referring the patients after medical treatment to wezesha local groups for social support and re-integration in the community.



4. Governance

Board

The three board members continued in their roles within the Organization during the year: Flora Lamba - chairperson, Egide Dhala - Treasurer and Salome Mbugua - Company Secretary.



Staff

There were seven interns and volunteers involved with the organization during the year: Alycia Chau and Sharlot Cecchini from two different universities in USA; Sthandile Dlamini and Cyndi Njoki from University College Dublin; Anne Burke, Faith Mwangi, Spaq Nkaku and Sinead Moore . Each volunteer/intern had key specific role to deliver.

5. Financial report

From April 2013 to April 2014, the Organization operated with a total budget of 20,133 euros of which €167 (forwarded balance from 2012), €7,375 (fundraising) and €12,758 (directors donation: direct expenses and contribution in kind, including a Car, all valued in money). Donation by directors covered activities during field visit in Kinshasa (DR Congo) from October 2013 to January 2014. Total Expenditure of the year was 13,900 euros which leaves a balance of 6,213 euros that reflect mainly the value of the car donated by director to support activities in DR Congo, that is: cash €675 and car €5,538. The organization accounts for the year ending April 2014 were audited by Derivan & Co, chartered accounts and registered auditors. Below is the summary of income and Expenditure Account.

Wezesha Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital) Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30th April 2014			
	Notes	2014 €	2013 €
Income	2	20,113	835
Expenditure		(13,900)	(668)
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation		6,213	167
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities		-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities after taxation	3	6,213	167
		=====	=====

Income and Operating Surplus arose solely from continuing operations in the current year.

The company had no recognised gains and losses in the financial period (or the preceeding financial period)