

## UN-REDD Programme – Civil Society Representative Nomination Form

*Please limit response length to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to [csselection@un-redd.org](mailto:csselection@un-redd.org) by Friday,*

*11 September 2009. Self-nominations are accepted.*

1. Name of the candidate: Abdulai Fati Abigail
2. Name of organization or network: Widows and Orphans Movement
3. Title (if applicable):
4. Country: Ghana
6. Language(s) spoken: English, Hausa, twi, Frafra
7. Please describe the primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidate represents and what countries the organization is active in.

The Primary interest of the organisation is to address the social, Economic, Emotional, Psychological, Physical needs of the widow and orphan so that they are able to live a life of dignity.

Functions include:

**Advocacy Programs:** Human rights advocacy for widows and orphans; Human rights education (Widowhood Rites, Wife Inheritance, Property Inheritance) for widows & orphans; Human rights education for public servants and community members.

### **Income Generation**

Agriculture:

Sustainable Livelihoods support through the provision of farming implements and agricultural training; Support of animal husbandry projects through training, veterinary assistance and the provision of animals;

Agro processing:

Provision of grinding mills, training in the operation of mills, and assistance in the marketing of Shea butter and groundnut oil

Arts and Crafts: Assist widows involved in handicraft production with the marketing and sales of their products.

Micro credit: Micro Credit to 35 widows groups in the Upper East Region (numeric, bookkeeping, credit); Support in the development of group executive committees, training in group dynamics, and support in group facilitation;

### **Education and Training:**

Education: Facilitating the education of needy orphans through the provision of basic supplies (uniforms, books and school fees) ; Educational support to widows (formal and non-formal); Non-formal educational support to orphans involved in skills training;

Training:

Skills training to orphans and young widows in: hairdressing, dressmaking, cloth weaving, basket weaving, catering, tailoring, carpentry, motor fitting, and electrical;

Skills training to widows in: cloth weaving, basket weaving innovation; pomade & soap making.

## **HIV / AIDS**

Empowering widows with HIV/AIDS through skills training that facilitate job acquisition;  
Health care support to widows and orphans with HIV / AIDS;  
Skills training or educational support to HIV / AIDS orphans;

8. Describe briefly the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.

Widows and Orphans Movement (WOM) has branches in six regions in Ghana and is still expanding. The National headquarters is in the upper East region of Ghana. WOM is able to coordinate the activities of its branches through regular communication and meetings. WOM also has a membership of almost 9000 widows in the upper east region of Ghana alone, with 36 groups. We therefore visit these groups or sometimes invite them to analyze the work done so far and what can be done to improve upon it, while also gathering their needs to help in the better implementation of projects. We also have the contact addresses of the group leaders in our records.

WOM also partners with other organizations such as Action Aid Ghana (AAG), Export Development International Fund(EDIF), American Embassy, single mothers Association among others.

These are just but a few of the coordination activities mentioned

9. Describe briefly your organization's background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forests in response to climate change, including REDD.

WOM has had Educational Programs for Widows and communities on the effect of deforestation. As a result reduced the rate at which trees are being cut down. With support from other partners and donor agencies WOM has provided 7 grinding mills for 7 communities to produce Shea butter for income so as to prevent them from cutting the Shea nut tree. WE in collaboration with the forestry department embarked on a tree planting Exercise.

10. Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process.

WOM in collaboration with UNDP and SNV as well as other NGOs are yet to embark on an advocacy program on the importance of the Shea tree to the people of Ghana as a whole. Technical and Advisory support will be provided by SVN and all other stakeholders and will come together to seek funding. However for the medium term UNDP will provide initial funds for the start of the program.

*Please send completed form to [csoselection@un-redd.org](mailto:csoselection@un-redd.org)*