

***Women Economic Empowerment Program  
National Knowledge Sharing Seminar on Women Economic Participation  
Concept Note***

***Beirut, 13th and 14th July 2012***

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**1- Background**

**CRTD.A** has been active in the field of women economic empowerment for almost a decade. **CRTD.A**'s work includes supporting the work of rural women cooperatives and organisations in South Lebanon, the Beqaa, and in Akkar to a lesser extent. The multiple forms of interventions include close field accompaniment, field research (mostly qualitative and action research), technical counselling, training and financial support and assistance in developing market outlets and came together into an integrated entity known as the Women Economic Empowerment Programme (**WEEP**).

In 2010, **CRTD.A** embarked on a new phase of **WEEP** which combined research and knowledge dissemination, counselling services, starting up and/or consolidating women economic initiatives, advocacy, and policy work to support women's economic empowerment at the grassroots level as well as contributing to strengthening women's position at the level of social and public institutions. This new phase is known as **Regional Economic Empowerment of Women Project** which is a regional project covering Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia and funded by **CIDA** and managed by **Oxfam Quebec**.

As part of the research and knowledge component of the **REEWP** project, **CRTD.A** planned and implemented a series of secondary as well as field researches using essentially the qualitative research methodology.

The knowledge sharing and research activities conducted are the following:

- Desk research on women's economic empowerment
- A rural women research looking at the role that Rural Women Cooperatives play as vectors for leadership and empowerment
- Pilot in gender auditing of a public institution
- Field community researches related to women's economic participation
- Regular harvesting, systematisation and sharing of knowledge material
- Building and launching the **REEWP** knowledge portal

## **2. Objectives of the National Knowledge Sharing Seminar**

The National Knowledge Sharing Seminar is conceived as a culmination of the first phase of the qualitative field research and knowledge gathering process carried out within the framework of the **REEWP** project.

Its main aim is to share the experience, knowledge opportunities and findings from this first phase of field research with a broader audience including the field research participants as well as other stakeholders involved in various aspects of women's economic empowerment.

The specific objectives of the sharing seminar are:

- a. De-brief the **RWCs**, other research participants, stakeholders and NGOs involved in women's economic empowerment on the findings and outcomes of the researches as well as their relevance to their lives and work
- b. Building capacities and knowledge of participants on women's economic empowerment through knowledge sharing
- c. Identify knowledge gaps and future research questions
- d. Set up an informal network of participants interested in engaging in research an advocacy on women's economic empowerment
- e. Identify key issues to feed into the discussions of the informal network

## **3. Participants' profile**

The targeted participants in the seminar include the following:

- Research participants (members of **RWCs**, local actors, municipality members, etc..)
- Members of women and other civil organizations involved in various aspects of women's economic empowerment
- Public institutions (**MOSA, CDR, NCLW, MoAg, etc....**)
- Selected academics & researchers

## **4. Methodology of the National Knowledge Sharing Seminar**

The Seminar will be based on presentations of summary findings followed by interactive questions and answers spaces.

Participants will receive a file including user-friendly research summaries covering each session of the seminar.

Each of the sessions of the seminar is conceived as a standalone session so that participants can decide on which ones to attend based on their stated interests.

By the end of each session of the seminar, participants will be asked to complete an evaluation and follow-up questionnaire.

20 June 2012

### Suggested programme of the National Knowledge Sharing Seminar

The National Knowledge Sharing Seminar is expected to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July and will extend over one and a half day.

Its suggested structure will be as follows:

#### **Day One (13<sup>th</sup> July 2012)**

<b>Opening</b> 9:00 – 9:30	<i>Arrival of participants</i> <i>Registration</i>
<b>Session one</b> 9:30 – 10:30	<i>Participants' introduction</i> <i>Overview of <b>CRTD.A</b> and <b>REEWP</b></i> <i>Purpose of the NKSS, programme and methodology</i> <i>Presentation of the <b>REEWP</b> Research Component:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Summary and highlights of the research process</i></li> <li>- <i>Qualitative research training</i></li> <li>- <i>Key methodological issues</i></li> <li>- <i>Presentation of the portal</i></li> </ul> Q & A
<b>Session two</b> 10:30 – 11:30	<i>The Rural Women Research:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presentation</i></li> <li>- <i>Highlights</i></li> <li>- <i>Key findings</i></li> </ul> Q & A
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>Session Three</b> 12:00 – 13:30	<i>The Field Community Research:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presentation</i></li> <li>- <i>Highlights</i></li> <li>- <i>Key findings</i></li> </ul> Q & A
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>Session Four</b> 14:30 – 16:30	<i>The Rural Women Cooperatives &amp; market access</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presentation</i></li> <li>- <i>Highlights</i></li> <li>- <i>Key findings</i></li> </ul> Q & A

**Day two (14<sup>th</sup> July 2012)**

<p><b>Session One</b>  <b>9:30 – 11:00</b>  <b>(Habbouba)</b></p>	<p><i>The Gender Audit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presentation</i></li> <li>- <i>Highlights</i></li> <li>- <i>Key findings</i></li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A</p>
<p><b>11:00 -- 11:15</b></p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
<p><b>Session Two</b>  <b>11:15 – 12:30</b>  <b>(Delphine)</b></p>	<p><i>The Desk research:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Presentation</i></li> <li>- <i>Highlights</i></li> <li>- <i>Key findings</i></li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A</p>
<p><b>Session Three</b>  <b>12:30 – 13:30</b></p>	<p><i>Plenary discussion and conclusions</i></p>
<p><b>13:30 -- 14:30</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>