Mokoro Newsletter
Issue 70, March 2015

Dear Reader,

Please find below the latest news from us at Mokoro. As always, we welcome responses to articles, and if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter at a guest author, please let us know.

Electronic Surveys: Pleasures and Pitfalls

With the advent of web-based electronic surveys it is now possible, with just a few clicks, to create a professional-looking survey and send it out to hundreds of people all around the world, effortlessly garnering their views on a variety of topics. This has been a great boon for evaluators who, from the comfort of their office, can contact a whole group of people simultaneously and request their opinions in an entirely consistent manner. Reflecting on her recent experience, Beth Hodson examines a few misconceptions and misguided approaches that she hopes others can avoid.

Read the full article.

Women's Economic Empowerment: Approaches, Strategies & Alliances for Success

Whilst women's economic empowerment has gained considerable traction both in the development arena and in the corporate world and beyond, it has also been subject of significant debate. Late in 2014, Mokoro hosted a seminar to discuss understandings of women's economic empowerment and explore approaches, strategies and alliances for success. Drawing on the presentations and discussions at the seminar, as well as the wider literature on women's economic empowerment, Lilli Loveday presents an overview of the issues and brings together threads of the debate.

Read the full article.

Celebrating Lionel Cliffe
In October 2014, Robin Palmer, one of Mokoro’s land experts, visited Cape Town for a colloquium held to celebrate the life and work of Lionel Cliffe - a prolific radical academic, a committed activist, and the founder of the Review of African Political Economy. Robin shares his reflections on the event and some of the presentations.

_Mokoro News_

Chris Tanner, one of Mokoro’s land experts, will be attending the Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in March. He will be presenting a paper titled ‘Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice as Instruments for Good Land Governance’, which he wrote with Marianna Bicchiere and Margret Bidar from FAO.

Two recent evaluations completed by Mokoro teams have now been published on the World Food Programme website. These are: a strategic evaluation on WFP’s use of Pooled Funds for Humanitarian Preparedness and Response (2009-2013) and an evaluation of WFP’s Country Portfolio in Indonesia (2009-2013).


Mokoro’s Robin Palmer attended a conference on Land and Law in Edinburgh, where they launched the European Joint Doctorate in Law and Development (EDOLAD). This aims to make a significant contribution to the need for knowledge-driven development policy-making. Robin presented a paper ‘Women’s land rights in Southern and Eastern Africa - still exceptionally difficult terrain.’

Catherine Dom, one of our Principal Consultants, spoke at an IDD Birmingham guest seminar. Her presentation was titled ‘Researching change and continuity in rural Ethiopia: 20 villages over 20 years - the WIDE research project’. The podcast is now available.


Mokoro is pleased to welcome a new member to our team. Fran Girling has joined us as Projects Assistant to provide administration and assistance in the coordination and communications of our consultancy programme.

_Recently Completed Assignments_

- Use of Country System Inventory for Liberia’s New Deal Compact Process (UNDP)
- UNICEF Financial Benchmarking for Child Protection
- WFP’s use of Pooled Funds for Humanitarian Preparedness and Response (2009-2013): A Strategic Evaluation
- WFP Country Portfolio Evaluation Indonesia (2009-2013)

_Land Rights in Africa: Latest Resources_

Mokoro have hosted the Land Rights in Africa website since 2012. The intention is to publicise the work on land rights in Africa. The site is managed by Robin Palmer, who feels strongly that there is a need to disseminate arguments in favour of pro-poor land reform. The website has grown considerably over the years.
and is updated frequently.

**Land and Seed Laws under Attack. Who is pushing changes in Africa?**  
*Source: AFSA & GRAIN*

**Addressing the Human Rights Impacts of Land Grabbing**  
*Source: European Parliament, Directorate-General for External Policies, Policy Department (Lorenzo Cotula)*

**Implications of Community-based Legal Aid Regulation on Women's Land Rights**  
*Source: IFPRI Research Brief 20 (Lucy Billings, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, and Valerie Mueller)*

**Land and Water Rights Hotspot**  
*Source: FAO Land and Water Division Working Paper 8 (Michel Merlet, Clara Jamart and Samuel L’Orphelin)*

**No land, no future. A community’s struggle to reclaim their land**  
*Source: ActionAid International*