

G-RAP POLICY PRACTICES PAPER

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AEW	Africa Education Watch
A-G's	Attorney-General's Department
AGI	Association of Ghana Industries
AGSP	Ambassador Girl Scholarship Policy
ALAC	Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre
APNAC	African Parliamentary Network against Corruption
AU	Africa Union
AWID	Association for Women in Development
BoG	Bank of Ghana
CBA	Center for Budget Advocacy
CDD	Centre for Democratic Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDEP	Center for the Development of People
CEPA	Centre for Economic Policy Analysis
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CHRI	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
CHROG	Coalition of Human Rights organization in Oil and Gas
CODEO	Coalition of Domestic Election Observers
COWIG	Coalition on Women in Governance
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DACF	District Assembly Common Fund
DAs	District Assemblies
DCEs	District Chief Executives
DCSP	Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper
DEEP	Distribution Effects of Economic Policy

DFID	Department for International Development
DPs	Development Partners
EC	Electoral Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreements
EU	European Union
FAGE	Federation of Agriculture Exporters
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers Ghana
FOSDA	Foundation for Security and Development in Africa
GACC	Ghana Anti Corruption Coalition
GBA	Ghana Bar Association
GEITI	Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
GES	Ghana Education Service
GFD	Ghana Federation of the Disabled
GGCA	Global Gender Climate Alliance
GII	Ghana Integrity Initiative
GJA	Ghana Journalist Association
GMSIP	Ghana Media Standards Improvement Program
GNAT	Ghana National Association of Teachers
GPRS II	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy II
G-RAP	Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme
GRNA	Ghana Registered Nurses Association
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
IGIs	Independent Governance Institutions
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre

LAP	Law Awareness Program
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty
LLV	Legal Literacy Volunteers
MCEs	Municipal Chief Executive
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFWA	Media Foundation for West Africa
MOFEP	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MOTI	Ministry of Trade and Industries
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NCA	National Communication Authority
NCAP	National Coalition against the Privatization of water
NCCE	National Commission on Civic Education
NCPD	National Council on Persons with Disabilities
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NMC	National Media Commission
NUGS	National Union of Ghana Students
NYP	National Youth Policy
PPA	Public Procurement Authority
PTAs	Parent Teacher Associations
PURC	Public Utilities Regulatory Commission
PVT	Parallel Vote Tabulation
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RAOs	Research and Advocacy Organizations

SADA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
SFO	Serious Fraud Office
TI	Transparency International
TUC	Trades Union Congress
TWN	Third World Network
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
WANEP	West African Network for Peace
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme (G-RAP) is a pooled funding mechanism for supporting the institutional development of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with the main focus of Research and Advocacy Organizations (RAOs) in Ghana. G-RAP offers core funding to the most established RAOs, selected on a competitive and needs-assessment basis, as well as one-off grants for networks and coalitions engaged in special advocacy projects. Over the past decade, CSOs in Ghana engaged in policy research and advocacy have built up, a proven track record of carrying out evidence-based research in support of development policy and holding government to account for its policy choices and its use of public resources. The major challenge to this process has been access to funds for the kind of work these organizations do. G-RAP partially provides a solution to this challenge and has since 2005 delivered timely and efficient grants up to a total of US\$15 million to RAOs in Ghana.

This report is part of G-RAP's efforts at documenting and sharing lessons learned and best practices of its grantees and sought to systematically collect, analyze and share lessons learned with regards to national policy advocacy processes engaged in by its grantees – i.e. *how RAO engagement with policy makers in Ghana through research and evidence coupled with advocacy has changed or impacted policies since 2005.*

The report is a compilation of ten RAO case studies on the policy initiatives, their approaches, strategies and processes employed by these selected RAOs to achieve objectives. The table below presents a summary of grantees (RAOs) and the grants they have received since 2005. So far about USD\$ 1.2 million in grants has been approved for the ten RAOs in 2010.

RAO	Total Grants Received 2005 to end 2009, (USDS)	Approved Grants for 2010, (USDS)
ABANTU for Development	500,000	100,000
Center for Democratic Development, CDD – Ghana	815,000	130,000
Centre for Economic Policy Analysis, CEPA	1,040,000	100,000
Ghana Federation of the Disabled, GfD	140,000	100,000
Ghana Integrity Initiative, GII	300,000	100,000
Integrated Social Development Centre, ISODEC	940,000	250,000
Media Foundation for West Africa, MFWA	175,000	120,000
Third World Network, TWN	1,156,625	125,000
Women in Law and Development in Africa, WILDAF – Ghana	375,000	150,000
Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)	950,000	100,000
TOTAL	6,391,625	1,225,000

The work of the RAOs which form part of this report has primarily been through: research; advocacy; publications; training and capacity development; and community, sensitization, workshops, seminars, consultations, and policy dialogues. Additionally, work has been carried out either singularly or in collaboration through networks and coalitions.

Through collaboration and networking, RAOs have been able to make far reaching contributions to policy issues. Following in the table below are policy initiatives being advocated by RAOs:

RAOs	Policy Issue(s)
Gender Centre/NetRight/WiLDAF	Domestic Violence Act and Domestic Violence Fund
KITE/ISODEC/IEA/CEPIL/NetRight/LRC	Oil and Gas issues
CDD/Gender Centre/FIDA/WiLDAF	HIV/AIDs
ABANTU/SEND	Climate Change
SEND	NHIS/GSFP
SEND/CEPA	Savannah Accelerated Development Authority
SEND/IDEG/GACC	Aid Effectiveness
FIDA/WiLDAF/Hunger Project/ABANTU/Gender Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women representation in local assembly • Women's participation in politics
WiLDAF/CEPIL/LRC	Property Rights of Spouses Bill
CDD/WiLDAF/IEA	Constitutional Review
GII/GACC/MFWA	Right to Information Bill
GII/GACC/CDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Declaration Regime • Asset declaration and increasing information inflow among accountability institutions
GII/LRC/GACC	Anti-corruption
LRC/GfD	Disability fund
CEPIL/WACAM	EIA/Provision of free legal services including court room representation to mining communities and training on oil and gas to coastal communities in the Western Region
TWN/CEPIL/ABANTU/NetRight/CIVIC RESPONSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Coalition on Mining (NCOM) • Mining Law
IEA	Presidential Transition Bill

Ten grantees (RAOs) were selected from the list of total G-rap beneficiaries whose work cut across major economic sectors of the Ghanaian economy and with emphasis on the pro-poor policy domain. Interviews and discussions were held with representatives of these grantees. Furthermore some information was also obtained from publications and other works of these grantees. The report is thus a synthesis of information obtained from the interviews as well as from the documents provided by the RAOs.

The table below shows each RAO and the representatives who took part in this exercise:

RAO	Representative(s)
ABANTU for Development	Dr. Rose Kutin
Center for Democratic Development, CDD – Ghana	Mr. Kojo Asante
Centre for Economic Policy Analysis, CEPA	Dr. Charles Jebuni
Ghana Federation of the Disabled, GfD	Ms Rita K. Kusi
Ghana Integrity Initiative, GII	Mr. Vitus Azeem
Integrated Social Development Centre, ISODEC	Dr. Z. Yakubu, Mr. E. Tay, Mr. Kofi Ayivor
Media Foundation for West Africa, MFWA	Mrs. J. Quarcoopome

Third World Network, TWN	Dr. Yao Graham, Ms Wilma Osei
Institute of Economic Affairs	Based on information from webaddress & Feature article in the Ghanaian Daily Graphic (February, 15, 2010)
Women in Law and Development in Africa, WiLDAF – Ghana	Mrs. Bernice Sam

As advocacy and research organizations, attribution is sometimes very difficult as most of these RAOs work singularly or in most instances through networks and coalitions. Nonetheless the work of the selected RAOs in this report have informed very important policy decisions, bills, Acts passed by parliament, and decisions taken by government. Additionally activities have served to aid citizens to make informed decisions on issues of national concern. Following are some of the laws, bills, Acts and several other activities in the Ghanaian policy arena which have benefited from inputs of the RAOs in this report:

- The draft Mining Law;
- Incorporation of concerns of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in national elections (since 2004, 2008);
- Draft defamation bill – the Ghana Defamation bill 2006
- Contribution to the drafting of the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) to incorporate concerns of PWDs;
- Instituting the Ghana Media Standards Improvement Program (GMSIP);
- Agitated for the repeal from the criminal code the Criminal Libel and Seditious Laws (Amendment) Act 602, 2001;
- Preparation of the Women’s Manifesto;
- Preparation of background work for the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) strategy document;
- Advocacy role in the Property Rights of Spouses Bill 2010, particularly, making the case for the recognition of people in cohabitation;
- Contribution to disseminating information on the “*Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women*” (CEDAW);
- Amendment to the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) provision in the criminal code

- Ghana Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651);
- National Health Insurance Act, 2003 (Act 650);

- The Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720);

- Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715);
- The Human Tracking Act, 2005, (Act 694);

- Domestic Violence Act, 2007, (Act 732);

- Representation of the Peoples (Amendment) Act, 2006 (Act 699);
- National Identification Authority Act, 2006 (Act 707);

- The Asset Declaration Law;

- Right to Information Bill.

Currently the following are some of the initiatives that the RAOs are engaged in:

- Reviewing exemptions granted to certain public officers, and to include close family members of public officers in the Asset Declaration Law;
- Developing a document to be incorporated in the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) – the successor to the GPRS II;
- Working to have disability as a thematic area in the census scheduled to begin later in 2010;
- Constitutional Review process;
- National Adaptation Plan on Climate Change;
- Presidential Transition Bill.

ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT

ABANTU for development is a registered NGO established in 1991 as a gender justice and policy advocacy organization with a vision of a world where *“empowered women and men advocate collectively on gender inequalities through promoting transformational leadership and development for a just society”*. Abantu exists to *“strengthen the capacity of women to participate in decision making at all levels to influence policies from a gender perspective and to address inequalities and injustices in social relations”*.

The Regional Office for West Africa was set up in 1999 and since then ABANTU has been collaborating with other NGOs and women’s organizations in Ghana and the sub-regional as a whole to strengthen their capacities towards influencing policies from a gender perspective for women’s advancement.

ABANTU's Objectives: ABANTU exists to achieve the following objectives:

- To develop clear gender perspectives on democratic governance and women's rights and advocate for the effective and increased participation and representation of women in politics and decision making;
- To contribute to the analysis and enhance advocacy work on gender and climate justice through effective mobilization and coalition building;
- To enhance and sustain the leadership capabilities of women in peace building, preventive action on conflict and post conflict transformation and strengthen the capacities of women's organizations to participate effectively in peace building and reconstruction;
- To ensure a gender perspective in all issues of governance, climate change, and peace building and to ensure that poverty, HIV/AIDS and ICTs are addressed as cross cutting issues in all programmes;
- To facilitate the institutional and organizational development of ABANTU-ROWA so that it can be effective in influencing policies and development for the benefit of African women and men in the region.

ABANTU undertakes all of its projects through the following functional areas: training and capacity building; advocacy, public awareness and networking; research, publication and information; and institutional strengthening.

Policy Initiatives

ABANTU is currently engaged in three main program areas: governance, climate change and peace building.

Governance: Under its gender and governance programme ABANTU undertakes general governance activities such as: Strengthening the capacities of women in political parties; engaging with key actors in political parties; getting young people in tertiary institutions under its mentoring programme to take an active role and interest in leadership and governance.

Specific results include the production and wider dissemination of the Women's Manifesto for Ghana and the hosting of the Women's manifesto Coalition; the institutionalization of Biennial Conferences with Women in District Assemblies; and the setup of a modular course for women in political parties through collaboration with Women in Broadcasting. .

Women's Manifesto: ABANTU initiated the preparation of the 'Women's Manifesto' out of a concern about the insufficient attention given to critical issues affecting women creating a situation where there is gross under representation of women in politics, policy and decision making levels and in public life generally. The 'Manifesto' therefore provides a platform of a common set of demands for the achievement of gender equality and sustainable national

development in Ghana. This document was prepared through a series of consultations with different stakeholders – NGOs, CSOs, District Assemblywomen from the 110 DAs, (now there are 170 districts in Ghana) media women and men as well as representatives of political parties. The document has been used in a number of ways: to influence policy makers such as parliamentarians, sensitizing Senior High School Students through a school's outreach program and as a capacity building tool to strengthen women's understanding of governance issues. . ABANTU continues to host the Coalition on the Women's Manifesto which remains the main platform for advocating for the implementation of the demands in the 'Manifesto'.

The 'Women's Manifesto' has won a number of awards. These include one award from the Association for Women in Development (AWID) and another from UNIFEM-Germany. The Commonwealth Foundation has also documented the experience of the e 'Manifesto' as a best practice and ABANTU and the Coalition had to do a write up in that connection for sharing and learning purposes.

Decentralization: ABANTU's work in this area focuses on highlighting the importance of women's participation in local governance, influencing the structures and processes of local governance, and ensuring equitable and gender responsive local governance system in Ghana. . ABANTU organizes biennial conferences with women in the District Assemblies (DAs) to strategize on issues relating to women's rights in the local governance system. This initiative has been acknowledged by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Institute of Local Government Studies as the two institutions recently tasked the Coalition on the Women's Manifesto and ABANTU to organize women's groups as a constituency to make inputs into a review process of the Local Government System in Ghana.

Climate change

ABANTU's work on climate change has been located at the global, national and local levels. At the *global level*, ABANTU is part of a global network on gender and climate change. Known as the Global Gender Climate Alliance, (GGCA), the group has been at the fore front of mobilizing women and promoting advocacy on gender equality issues especially during the preparatory processes leading up to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP15). At the *national level*, ABANTU has worked with UNDP to contribute a gender perspective to the development of a National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) on Climate Change. At the *local level* ABANTU organises sensitization forums such as one organised in Kwanyako in the Central Region on gender and climate change.

Peace building

ABANTU networks with women organizations in the West Africa sub region on peace building issues. It has also organised a number of sub regional conferences on peace, conflict and militarism. ABANTU also works with women in the Budumburam refugee camp as a way of building the capacity of women as an empowerment tool and in terms of giving

meaning to *UN Resolution 1325* which focuses on women's rights in conflict and peace-building.

Publications:

Among ABANTU's publications are the following:

- “*Enhancing Women's Active Participation and Representation in Election 2008*”;
- “*The Women's Manifesto for Ghana*”.
- Quarterly publication – ABANTU News.

CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT, CDD-GHANA

The CDD is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit research-based and policy-oriented think tank with a mission to *promote democracy, good governance and economic openness in Ghana in particular and Africa in general.*

Objectives

The mission of CDD is pursued through the following objectives:

- Research and publication on issues relating to democracy, good governance and economic openness;
- The monitoring analyzing and documentation of the progress of democratic development in Ghana and Africa;
- The promotion of transparency, accountability and integrity in the exercise of administrative and political discretion and in the allocation and use of public resources;

- The promotion of access to information and data relating to matters of public interest;
- The provision of training to and networking with key public and civic institutions of democratic governance;
- The defense of operational autonomy and helping to strengthen the oversight capabilities of public and private watchdog institution;
- The education of the public about their rights and responsibilities under democratic and constitutional rule;
- The promotion of peace building and democracy, conflict management in Ghana and the West African sub region

Processes and approach to work

CDD executes its activities through: training and capacity building; research, technical support/consultancy; networking and collaborative work:

- The Center organizes workshops for institutions of democratic governance, including Ministries, departments and agencies the Military, the Police Service, media, selected community-based organizations and NGOs that share in the Center's mission;
- Provides technical support to independent governance institutions – Parliament, Judiciary, CHRAJ, NCCE, EC, NMC as well as CSO platforms like GACC and GII;
- Has facilitated and formed coalitions for national election monitoring, anti-corruption campaigns, promoting the rights of vulnerable groups like disability and HIV and AIDS, peace building and conflict management in support of Ghana's national reconciliation and transitional justice process; and
- Has collaborated with GII, Ghana Anti-corruption Coalition (GACC), WiLDAF-Ghana, and Federation of the Disabled, CHRAJ, FIDA and Center for the Development of People (CEDEP).

The center conducts quantitative and qualitative studies on critical issues in democracy and development as part of its mission to support democratic consolidation. Among its flagship publications include:

- ***Critical Perspectives***: An Occasional paper that provides insightful analyses of contemporary governance issues and democratic development in Ghana;
- ***Democracy Watch*** – a quarterly news letter tracking Ghanaian democratization and highlighting developments on the political, economic and social scene;
- ***The Afrobarometer*** – a series of comparative public opinion surveys on democracy, governance, economic reforms, social development and civil society across Africa i.e. measures opinions on ordinary citizens' attitudes towards democracy, good

governance and market reforms i.e. tracks perception of economy, living standards, performance of IGSs and other public institutions.

Initiatives/Impacts

Over the last five years CDD-Ghana has been engaged in several activities in the areas of politics, democracy, governance and these include:

Drivers of Change Analysis: this publication is in collaboration with ODI on the politics of reform in Ghana i.e. issues in the areas of: the budget process; traditional authority; religion etc.

The Center has collaborated with the GfD to get the **disability legislation passed**. The Center's participation was in the areas of research, advocacy, and workshops. It has published a popular version of the disability law in four local languages for public readership.

CDD conducted a **governance and anti-corruption survey**: "*Ghana Governance and Corruption Survey Evidence from Households, Enterprises and Public Officials*" this has been the precursor for the establishment of GII and GACC.

Election 2000: CDD-Ghana was instrumental in the formation of the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) in 2000. This coalition is engaged in election observation, support services, research. To date CDD-Ghana has trained 12554 domestic observers and helped to train over 41,000 in other African countries. CODEO is a 34 member CSO network with memberships that include: TUC, GNAT, GBA, GRNA, Christian Council, and NUGS etc. CODEO also used the first Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) also known as the Quick count to independently verify the results of the first, second and third round voting for the 2008 Presidential Elections.

Presently CDD-Ghana is working with 48 member multi-stakeholder coalition and an accomplished 19 member Technical Advisory Committee to mobilize civil society to participate in the ongoing national constitutional review process and to collate inputs to be presented to the Constitutional Review Commission.

Contributions to bills/Laws

CDD has in collaboration with other CSOs, coalitions, Independent Governance Institutions (IGIs) and public organizations contributed to the passage of some bills and policy issues:

- The Human Tracking Act, 2005, (Act 694);
- Persons with Disability Act 2006, (Act 715);
- Representation of the Peoples (Amendment) Act, 2006 (Act 699);
- National Identification Authority Act, 2006 (Act 707);
- Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732);

- Amendment to the female genital mutilation (FGM) provision in the criminal code.

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC POLICY ANALYSIS (CEPA)

CEPA was established in 1993 as an independent not for profit think tank limited by guarantee that primarily aims at conducting research to influence policy. The objectives of CEPA since 1993 have been to:

- Conduct independent analysis and research on economic policies of relevance to Ghana and Africa;
- Disseminate understanding of economic issues among decision makers in the public and private sectors;
- Contribute to informed public participation in discussions of national regional and international economic matters;
- Hold seminars and workshops to share its findings with Ghanaians, Africa and international institutions and organizations;
- Publish or assist in the publication of articles, papers and books on selected economic issues;
- Do such other things as may be considered desirable, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

Policy Initiatives since 2005

Over the last couple of years CEPA's economic research work has been focused on:

- Addressing the spatial inequalities between the Northern Savannah and the South;
- Generating competitiveness for the Ghanaian economy;
- Stepping stone from Lome/Cotonou to Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with EU
- Enhancing economic growth through macroeconomic policies.

Spatial inequalities: Born out of the policy stance that regional inequalities should be analyzed based on economic zones of the country along the lines of the northern protectorate, the forest belt and the coastal areas, the government in 2007 established the Northern Development Fund. Government commissioned CEPA and Institute of Policy Alternatives (IPA) to design a comprehensive strategy for the transformation of the three northern regions to: address the issue of poverty; close the gap between the north and the rest of the country. Subsequently in 2009, government issued a policy statement renewing the mandate to extend the analysis to cover Northern Brong Ahafo and Northern Volta i.e. ten additional districts: Tain, Kintampo South, Kintampo North, Atebubu-Amanten, Pru, Sene, Ketekrachi East, Ketekrachi West, North Nkwanta, South Nkwanta.

Series of consultative workshops were held for the northern political leadership – Regional Ministers, DCEs, MCEs, Parliamentarians – “*Mole Series*” – to solicit their buy-in and ownership. Additionally, workshops were held for chiefs, of the regional house of chiefs, NGOs, the media, CSOs and women’s groups operating in the north. Workshops were held for members of Parliament (MPs) from the coverage beneficiary areas and for Development Partners (DPs) with a stake in this agenda.

Government has adopted the strategy and the bill has been drafted and presented to Cabinet and some suggestions for changes have been made; and the revised bill has been put before Cabinet. It is expected to go to Parliament in March of 2010 and be passed into law – the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority, *SADA Act*.

Generating competitiveness for the Ghanaian economy

The outcome of the exchange rate determination was the publication of two documents: “*Study on the Appropriate Exchange Rate Regime for a Competitive Export-led Growth Strategy for Ghana*”; and “*Microstructure of Ghana’s Foreign Exchange Market*”. These documents aimed at debating the appropriate exchange rate for Ghana and to inform and influence exchange rate policy.

Under the cost of doing business in Ghana the objective was to modify and adapt the WB methodology for estimating the cost of doing business in Ghana.

Enhancing economic growth through macroeconomic policy

CEPA undertakes its own analysis of economic policy issues based on its own research activities. It issued a critique of the current approach to macroeconomic stability programs being pursued. The critique made suggestions on the most feasible path given the country’s

circumstances. Some of CEPA's work on economic policy issues was acknowledged in the 2010 government budget statement.

Interim Economic Partnership Agreement

CEPA's work was assisting government to design the interim Economic Partnership Agreement, a stepping stone from Lome/Cotonou to Economic Partnership with EU. Under this initiative three activities have been undertaken: preparation of an interim Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) as a stop gap to the EPA expected to be negotiated by ECOWAS; determination of the appropriate exchange rate for Ghana; survey on the cost of doing business in Ghana.

A combination of workshops for various stakeholders: BOG, MOTI, MOFEP, financial institutions and the private sector stakeholders – AGI, PEF, FAGE, etc and research activities were the processes employed to produce a market access offer acceptable to the EU.

On the basis of the above government of Ghana adopted the interim agreement and jointly initialed with the European Union (EU).

GHANA FEDERATION OF THE DISABLED, GfD

The GfD is an organization with a two-fold mission to: *be an effective and efficient organization to create awareness about the capacities and disabilities of persons with disabilities; to promote the equalization of opportunities of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) through advocacy, lobbying and collaboration with other organizations.* In achieving its mission, GfD works to inform, influence and, incorporate issues/considerations of PWDs in all facets of the Ghanaian society. Among others the GfD works to:

- Challenging prejudice and ignorance;
- Ending discrimination;
- Promoting participation;
- Removing disabling barriers;
- Increasing access to information;
- Ensuring equal rights to education; and
- Exposing neglect and abuse.

Pro-poor Policy Initiatives/Impacts

GfD has been instrumental in the Ghanaian policy domain with works which include:

Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715): GfD has been involved in the drafting of this document and followed with such activities as advocacy, public education up to it passing. It facilitated and galvanized CSOs and made input into the document.

Gfd through its advocacy work has been instrumental in getting disability to be incorporated into the *Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II)* by the *National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)* as a thematic area. Here GfD, engaged with the NDPC, concerned CSOs and the Ministry of Manpower Employment to get this done.

Addressing PWDs' concerns in national elections: GfD worked to incorporate PWDs' concerns in both the 2004 and 2008 elections. These elections were made accessible to persons with disabilities e.g. through the instrumentality of GfD the EC introduced the tactile ballot system; and provided training to disabled persons (blind and partially sighted) in the

use of the tactile ballot system. In the area of the election process, GfD is a member of CODEO. Through CODEO, and with the support of CDD – the host of CODEO – persons with disabilities were engaged as election observers in the 2008 general elections. Furthermore there was national sensitization on the electoral process to persons with disabilities.

The National Youth Policy: the youth wing of the GfD prepared a position paper aimed at outlining the issues and concerns of PWDs and to ensuring the inclusion of the concerns of the youth with disabilities in the NYP.

Social Protection Strategy: the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) is a thematic area in the SPS. The GfD was part of the team that drafted the LEAP and ensured that PWDs are catered to in this official document.

Guidelines for the Disbursement and Management of the DACF for Persons with Disabilities: GfD prepared a draft document; organized seminars with District Assemblies (DAs) in some districts; organized a national level forum with CSOs working in the area of disability to lobby for its adoption by government; engaged with government MDAs which included: Ministry of Manpower and Employment; Dept. of Social Welfare; office of the Administrator of the DACF; special education Division of the Ministry of Education; National Council on Persons with Disabilities; Ministry of local government; institute of Local government studies; in workshops.

The efforts of the GfD on this singular act were acknowledged in the “*National Council on Persons with Disability: Guidelines for the Disbursement and Management of the DACF for Persons with Disability*”; which was adopted in January 2010. The document stated in part “for effective utilization, the NCPD in collaboration with GfD under the authority of the Ministry for Manpower and Social Welfare, in approval of Ministry for Local Government and Rural Development, provides these guidelines on the disbursement and management of the DACF to persons with disabilities” (NCPD/GfD, 2010, p:3).

Ongoing Initiatives

GfD is presently engaged in two activities:

- In the process of developing a document to be incorporated in the MTDP – the successor to the GPRS II;
- Working to have disability as a thematic area in the census scheduled to begin later in 2010. The federation lobbied and was included in the team that reviewed the draft census questionnaire.
- Participation in local governance: The Federation has identified and trained some interested persons with disabilities nation-wide to contest in the 2010 district level elections.

GHANA INTEGRITY INITIATIVE, GII

The GII is the local chapter of Transparency International (TI) was launched in 1999. It has a vision of a corruption free Ghana in all spheres of human endeavors where people and institutions act with integrity, accountability and transparency.

The objectives of GII include:

- To continuously create awareness about the negative effects of corruption;
- To empower citizens to demand responsiveness, accountability and transparency from people and institutions in Ghana;
- To build a culture of integrity, where corruption is unprofitable for people working in government, politics, business and civil society organizations by working with people and institutions.

Initiatives and Impact on Policy

GII has been engaged in several activities aimed at delivering themes necessary for creating a national integrity system. It undertakes activities that form the basis for its evidence-based research. It has engaged in public education/sensitization projects and research and advocacy activities.

GII has contributed to passage of transparency enhancing and anti-corruption legislations and bills mostly in collaboration with other organizations. Some of the work was on policy initiatives such as:

- The Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720);
- The Asset Declaration Law;
- The Right to Information Bill.

Asset Declaration: The contents suggested for the review and the proposals for amendment were based on the findings of baseline survey GII conducted on the Asset Declaration Law to:

- Find out the extent of public awareness by public officials who are mandated by the Law to declare assets;
- Extent of compliance by these public officials.

This survey led to the review of the bill. This initiative was undertaken in collaboration with: Audit Service, CDD, CHRAJ, representatives from the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament and the Attorney-General's Department. As ongoing activities on the Asset

Declaration, GII is currently advocating for two proposals to: Review exemptions granted to certain public officers; and to include close family members of public officers in the Asset Declaration Law.

Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720): GII has contributed to this Act through its public education and sensitization activities particularly for select committees of the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana namely: Constitutional and legal Affairs, the Public Accounts and the subsidiary legislation committee.

Right to Information Bill: In collaboration with CDD, GII held a focus group discussion to critique and review the first draft of the right to information bill which the A-G's office had referred to CSOs through the GII for input before submission to Parliament. This bill has now gone through the first reading in Parliament.

Other engagements with Parliament: GII has worked with the Parliament of Ghana to get the ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption; collaborated with the African Parliamentary Network against Corruption (APNAC) to get Parliament of Ghana to ratify the AU convention for preventing and curbing corruption.

Other Policy Initiatives

GII is engaged in three major policy initiatives: *promotion of exchange of information among key accountability institutions; Africa Education Watch and TISDA; Advocacy and legal Advice services.*

Exchange of information: findings from a baseline survey conducted by GII showed that exchange of information among key accountability institutions is limited and to a large extent non-existent. However this will facilitate efforts at creating a national integrity system. GII has embarked on a drive to have structures established so that the key accountability institutions would exchange information among themselves. The institutions participating in this process include: Audit Service, the Police Service, Attorney-Generals Department, Serious Fraud Office (SFO), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Public Procurement Authority (PPA), Internal Audit Agency, and the Accountant General's department.

The following milestones have been recorded with regard to work on promoting exchange of information among key accountability institutions:

- There is general agreement among the key accountability institutions on the need for information exchange;
- An exchange of information forum has been held;
- GII has facilitated the process of the signing of MOUs among the institutions;
- The organization is scheduled to be launched later in 2010;
- GII has agreed to host the secretariat of the organization for its first year.

Africa Education Watch/TISDA: these twin initiatives are aimed at ensuring equitable access to social services – education and water. Under the AEW, GII undertakes research activities into the financing of primary education in Ghana as a basis of comparison to other African countries. Specifically the AEW aims at:

- Ensuring the efficient utilization of earmarked resources to the education sector;
- Identifying leakages and making recommendations to curb them;
- Finding out how the internal control mechanisms are;
- Finding out the extent of community participation in school management i.e. community representation in school management committees and PTAs.

In the AEW, research/study has been undertaken in six (6) districts and the advocacy work of GII, received the buy-in of GES, Ministry of Education and Local level stakeholders in the districts. TISDA pursues these same aims but with a focus on water.

Advocacy and Legal Advice Center, ALAC: a new project (2009 – 2013) provides the avenue for people and corporate bodies who either become victims or witnesses of corrupt practices the legal advice to pursue the cases with the appropriate authority. GII has a toll free telephone number to provide the service.

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, (IEA)

Introduction

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) was established in 1989 as a political non-partisan body functioning as a policy analysis forum for the exchange of ideas and as a resource for

public education. IEA's mission is to *promote good governance, democracy and a free and fair market economy on Ghana and in Africa as a whole.*

Objectives

IEA seeks to:

- Broaden the debate on public policy;
- Engender private-sector-led economic growth; and
- Strengthen the pillars of democracy.

Processes

IEA undertakes its activities through a variety of ways: organizing conferences, seminars and workshops; affords opportunities for opinion leaders and other stakeholders to critically examine policy issues and exchange ideas; collaborates with other CSOs through the building of coalitions to fight for common courses.

Policy Initiatives

IEA has undertaken several policy initiatives relating to governance and democracy issues. The Institute translates academic research into information and recommendations for policymakers, organizes policy forums on various issues. Additionally, IEA periodically publishes its research work on topical developmental issues.

Governance and democracy: The IEA initiated public policy discourse and research on how to give meaning to the constitutional provisions on the right of Ghanaians to freedom of expression, freedom of the media and right and access to information. The Institute engaged Ghanaians in open discussions about criminal libel and freedom of information and their impact on democratic growth. Additionally, the Institute published papers on the imperative necessity for the passage of the freedom of information law and commissioned the drafting of a Bill on freedom of information. IEA opened up the draft freedom of information Bill for public discourse following the repeal of the Criminal Libel and Seditious Laws in 2001.

IEA formed coalitions with other CSOs – Media Foundation for West Africa, (MFWA), Ghana Journalist Association, (GJA), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) – to sustain the advocacy and fight for the passage of the right to information Bill. This Bill was approved by Cabinet and has now been placed before Parliament to be passed into law.

Publications: IEA produces a series of monographs on economic policy issues and has a peer-review journal – “*Ghana Policy Journal*” – which publishes issues of national economic and political importance. Since 2007, the IEA has been publishing an *Annual Economic Review and Outlook of Ghana*.

Contribution to Policy

IEA has made immense contributions to policy making through its numerous publications and advocacy work. Following are highlights of the Institute's impact on policy making in Ghana:

- Pioneered work on “giving meaning to the constitutional provisions on the right of Ghanaians to freedom of expression, freedom of the media and right of Access to information. Government accepted the IEA draft on the latter – the right to information document – as a working draft document;
- The IEA prepared the Whistleblower's bill which was passed into law in 2006;
- The Institute worked with a multi-partisan team to finalize the *Presidential Transition Bill* which served as the blueprint for the 2009 transition processes;
- Reviewed the draft Serious Fraud Office Bill (*Section 13*) which led to its revision before it was passed into law by Parliament;
- The IEA initiated and commissioned a two-and-half years' study policy document – the *Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper* (DCSP) – under its political parties programme. This document identifies and addresses the gaps in the provisions in the 1992 constitution which hinder the maturation of the democratization process and highlights the need for constitutional review. Issues raised in this document were incorporated into the manifestos of the two leading political parties in Ghana – the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and New Patriotic Party (NPP). One of this document's recommendations was for government to establish a *Constitutional Review Commission* to oversee the review of the 1992 Fourth Republican Constitution of Ghana;
- IEA holds Presidential and Vice-Presidential debates which are platforms for the different political parties to discuss issues of national concern, their vision for the country and to demonstrate the spirit of friendship.

INTEGRATED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ISODEC)

ISODEC is a Ghanaian NGO working for sustainable human development through the empowerment of the poor, women, children and the disadvantaged. It provides basic needs services and is also an advocacy organization. ISODEC has a mission of *promoting social justice and fundamental human rights of the poor and those without organized voice and influence.*

Policy Initiatives

Over the last five years, ISODEC has among others, been engaged in social protection issues and activities in the specific areas of economic justice, essential services and policy support.

Economic justice

ISODEC's work is mainly in the area of extractive industry and parliamentary capacity building. It leads the tax justice network which seeks to ensure pro-poor tax system through equity, transparency and accountability.

Extractive industry activities: It is engaged in the extractive sector revenue transparency initiative jointly with RWI to track and monitor revenue in the sector at the grassroots level. It is also the CSOs' representative on EITI multi-stakeholder forum campaigning for the legislation of the EITI. Additionally, ISODEC leads a Coalition of Human Rights organization in Oil and Gas (CHROG) to campaign on human rights abuses in the industry and provides "*the mining communities human rights and legal support program*" through which it sensitizes the mining communities.

Parliamentary capacity building: the goal of this initiative is to build the capacity of parliament to hold government accountable in the provision of affordable and accessible essential services. The objective is to help the minority in parliament institutionalize the budget process thereby compelling the ruling government to always engage them with the budget.

Essential Services

ISODEC's goal under this initiative is to keep basic social services – health, education and water – out of the international trade policy regimes i.e. GATs and EPAs and to ensure the principal role of the state in providing these goods. ISODEC runs the *Ambassador Girl Scholarship Policy (AGSP)* to promote access to basic education for the girl child in Northern Ghana. In the area of health, ISODEC collaborates with the regional and district directorates of the Ghana Health Service in the North to provide support in reproductive health.

Policy Support

Under its *Center for Budget Advocacy (CBA)*, ISODEC promotes public awareness of and participation in the national and local government budgeting process. The Center undertakes

analyses of the budget, provides training to CSOs and seeks to influence public resource management in favour of equity and poverty reduction. The CBA program is currently sponsoring an economic modeling effort – *Distributive Effects of Economic Policy* (DEEP) in aid of analysis of the social impacts of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies.

Advocacy

Advocacy is one of the ways through which ISODEC articulates its views on policy issues. This is carried out singularly or in collaboration with other stakeholders in the extractive industry, education water and health etc. The center is engaged in the Ghana Trade and Livelihoods campaign where farmers in the rice and tomatoes sector are mobilized to resist the EPAs and to work towards trade justice and regional integration as alternatives to free trade and economic globalization. ISODEC is campaigning for access and the right of persons living with HIV/AIDS to anti-retroviral drugs and treatment. Other health sector campaigns include: the campaign to extend exemption under the NHIS from Under-5 to Under-18; campaign for government to commit to the Abuja Declaration of 15 percent of GDP to the health sector.

Under the EITI, ISODEC is campaigning on the Extractive Industries Accountability to increase transparency in the receipt and utilization of payments and revenues generated by extractive industries in countries which heavily depend on extractive industries' resources. Additionally, the Center represents CSOs on the national steering committee and seeks to deepen the concept of transparency and accountability in the extractive industry. It spearheaded the *National Coalition against the Privatization of water* (NCAP) by engaging the relevant stakeholders – the public, the water sector restructuring secretariat, the Ministry of Water Resource Works and Housing. It also is exerting consumer and community pressure on Public Utilities and Regulatory Commission (PURC) to protect public interest.

ISODEC is a leading actor on the campaign for the right to education in Ghana – working towards the abolition of school fees at the basic education level with its advocacy program – “*right to know, right to education*” campaign. Additionally, ISODEC’s work has contributed to the following Bills:

- Ghana Labour Bill,
- National Health Insurance Bill.

ISODEC was the lead on the publication of the extractive industry source book: “Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative” (GEITI).

MEDIA FOUNDATION FOR WEST AFRICA (MFWA)

The MFWA is a regional independent non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1997 to defend and promote the rights and freedoms of the media and to help expand the boundaries of freedom of speech and expression in West Africa. The objectives of MFWA are to:

- Promote media freedom, independence and responsibility;
- Monitor, publicize and alert public opinion to defend and oppose violations of and attacks on media rights and freedom of expression;
- Advocate defense of and support for victims or repression of media rights and freedom of expression;
- Research into issues affecting media rights, freedom of speech and expression;
- Serve as resource to provide research results, data and information to mass media, professional organizations, NGOs, governments and inter-governmental agencies;
- Provide training and other support to strengthen the professional capacity, independence and social responsibility of the mass media;
- Provide a platform to stimulate discussion and education for the advancement of ideas on media rights and freedom of expression;
- Support mass media in projects for the promotion of human rights, peace and democratic institutions;
- Support the development and growth and strengthening of independent mass media.

Operational processes

MFWA works to achieve these objectives through research and publications, advocacy and litigation, workshops and seminars; presentations positions on topical media issues in the mass media, TVs; and through general monitoring of developments in the media industry and the profession of journalism. The Foundation is often the lead organization in most of its collaborative activities as well as initiator in the formation of coalitions and networks for common rights based issues.

Policy Initiatives

Over the years, MFWA has undertaken several initiatives in policy formulation either singularly or in collaboration with other organizations.

The Foundation led the formation of the Ghana Right to Information Coalition that championed the drafting of the Right to Information bill. The Bill has been laid before Parliament and has subsequently gone through the first reading on the floor of the House. This bill has been laid before the joint Parliamentary Sub committees of: the Communications and Information and the Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

MFWA initiated revision of a Draft Defamation Bill – the Ghana Defamation Bill 2006. In collaboration with the National Media Commission, (NMC), the Foundation commissioned a critique to highlight the shortcomings of the bill. This critique – “*A critical Review of the Defamation Bill, 2006*” was published and circulated to Parliament, the Judiciary and the Attorney-General’s department. This critique has led to a review of the bill, presently at the Attorney-General’s Department.

Media training: The foundation organizes media training programs. One of such programs has been training for about thirty journalists in Bawku and Tamale in 2009. The training program “*Media and Peace building*” was organized in collaboration with West African Network for Peace (WANEP) and the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA). This training program aimed at equipping radio and print media journalists with the necessary tools and skills to:

- Identify early warning triggers/ signals;
- Conduct effective interviews (phone-ins etc) and to host topical and tension-packed and sometimes controversial programs

MFWA has published a sourcebook: “*Legislation on Media, Speech and Expression in Ghana*” which contains all legislations which impinge upon the media, speech and expression in Ghana either repealed or extant. This book covers a wide range of subjects beginning from the Sedition Act 1661 to the NCA Act 1996 (Act 542). The subjects covered include legislation on: telegraphs, telephones, cinematography, electoral offences, emergency powers as well as subjects of more direct application to media expression and speech (criminal libel, sedition and related offences), book and newspaper registration, news paper licensing, copyright and telecommunications.

Together with the GJA, and other rights based organizations, MFWA agitated for the repeal from the criminal code, the Criminal Libel and Seditious Laws (Amendment) Act 602, 2001.

Ongoing Initiatives

The MFWA is undertaking the Ghana Media Standards Improvement Program (GMSIP) in collaboration with GJA and the School of Communications Studies at the University of Ghana. This program is targeted at media editors and is aimed at improving the professionalism of media practitioners. Plans are far advanced, under this program, to institute awards to deserving rural radio stations for excellence in reporting, production etc. Additionally, two research activities are being undertaken in collaboration with the School of Communications Studies at the University of Ghana: “*Study on the profile of Media personnel in Ghana*” and “*Study on Media and Libel in Ghana*”.

THIRD WORLD NETWORK (TWN – GHANA)

Introduction

TWN is a research and advocacy organization registered under the laws of Ghana as a non-profit company limited by guarantee. Its overarching objective is the research and advocacy on issues of social and economic policy that advances the needs and interests of peoples of Africa and other third world countries (especially marginalized social groups); a fair distribution of the world's resources and forms of development which are sustainable and fulfill human needs.

Policy Initiatives

TWN-Ghana has been greatly involved in trade policy issues through presenting positions, sensitizing, organizing for a/consultations and advocacy. Furthermore, TWN presents its position in its flagship publication – the African Agenda, a bi-monthly publication that reflects TWN’s concerns and campaigns around issues of economic policy, sustainable development, trade and investment, gender, environment, politics, and civil society. Principal areas of research and advocacy have been its involvement in the extractive industry – mining; general trade issues (EPA/WTO); and some work in the area of gender and economic policy.

Extractive industry activities

TWN has researched and published position documents in the area of mining as a step in its public education and advocacy work. Some of its publications include: “*The Glittering Façade: Effects of Mining Activities on Obuasi and its Surrounding Communities*”. This work investigated the environmental impact of mining activities at Ashanti Goldfields Obuasi mine in Obuasi and its satellite communities. It has additionally published another book on mining titled: “*Boom and Dislocation*” which aimed at highlighting the harmful effects of mining on Tarkwa and surrounding communities. These documents made certain far reaching recommendations that could inform policy in the mining sector.

TWN has also published “*Breaking the Curse: How transparent taxation and fair taxes can turn Africa’s Mineral Wealth into Development*”. This document argued that “African governments have not been able to optimize the mining tax due them before the 2003 to 2008 price boom, neither have they been able to capture the anticipated windfalls during the price boom. This document made recommendations to: African Governments and Parliaments; the International Accounting Standards Board and to Bilateral and Multilateral donors.

World Trade Organization/Economic Partnership Agreements Issues

TWN has been involved in sensitizing and advocating on the policy implications and the effects of signing the binding agreements on the Economic Partnership Agreements. The Network raised consciousness, researched, dialogued and built networks and coalitions as lobbying tools on the adverse effects of the EPA. It organized and paid for meetings on EPA. TWN participated at the ECOWAS/Ghana national level forum on EPA and influenced public perception and government hesitation on the EPA; it also influenced national policy in poultry.

The Network has published in the *African Agenda* and joint papers with other organizations. Some of these publications include: “Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs): A threat to Africa”; “Say No to EPAs”; “Forward with the Struggle against Economic Partnership Agreements”. Additionally TWN has organized roundtable discussions with the involvement of public officials on several trade and other issues.

Gender

TWN is also involved in gender related issues. It presently hosts Netright and has been a past convener of the coalition, played a key role in the Women’s Manifesto and supports women’s groups’ engagement on trade issues. Additionally, TWN highlights gender equality issues

which are prominent in trade issues in some of its position papers and publications: “Effects of Services Liberalization on Gender” and “Services liberalization signals bleak future for Africa’s market women”.

Contribution to Policy

The overarching contribution of TWN’s work is its efforts to participate in networks and in supporting public mobilization and expression. The network’s work has been acknowledged in the policy and decision-making process: the Network has recognized engagement with AU, UNECA *Pan-African Mining Policy Reform in Africa*; the Network created a framework for the reform of Ghana’s mining laws; drafted regulations on royalties, compensation, taxes etc; TWN was invited by government to make inputs at a workshop organized to review the mining law. Furthermore, TWN has facilitated community self-organization, supported a number of mining affected communities to organize.

WOMEN IN LAW AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA – WILDAF GHANA

WiLDAF – Ghana is an NGO committed to the protection and promotion of women’s rights with a vision to create an organization: *“which epitomizes civil society’s desire to promote, protect, and respect women’s rights in Ghana”*. WiLDAF seeks to increase women’s participation and influence at the community, national and international levels through initiating promoting and strengthening strategies which link law and development.

Areas of work

WiLDAF –Ghana’s work is concentrated in two broad areas: increasing women’s access to justice; increasing women’s participation in democracy and accountability

Operational processes and approach

Research; advocacy; capacity building; legal literacy and networking and coalition building

In the former thematic area it undertakes activities such as legal rights education; legal aid training; actors in the justice sector; advocacy; research, works on economic justice issues, social justice issues, HIV/AIDS, violence against women; issues around the women's manifesto.

In the latter, WiLDAF –Ghana organizes training for prospective parliamentarians; constituency debates; election observation; civic education activities; working with parliaments to inform about rights of women, working with District Assemblies (DAs) on gender and rights analysis.

Initiatives and Activities

Legal literacy programs

This program provides education on laws affecting women – inheritance laws; rights within marriage and divorce; children's rights; land rights; gender violence; and the maintenance of children.

The legal Awareness Program (LAP) of WiLDAF-Ghana gives training to leaders of grassroots organizations, social groups (churches), work place associations, governments and NGOs on legal rights. This project trains legal literacy volunteers (LLV) who in turn provide legal education on family laws in Central, Western, Volta, and Greater-Accra regions. In the area of legal literacy issues WiLDAF has been instrumental in several policy endeavors:

- It has compiled information gathered by its legal aid offices around the country and presented it to the Chief Justice;
- It has played advocacy role in the Property Rights of Spouses Bill 2010 particularly making the case for the recognition of people in cohabitation;
- Has established ten CRC – group of people have been taken through ADR training and some legal first aid.

Networking and coalition building

WiLDAF-Ghana has been instrumental in the policy arena through its work as member of some networks:

- WiLDAF has led to establish the Coalition on Women in Governance (COWIG);
- A member of the Domestic Violence bill coalition which includes twenty (20) individuals and organizations;
- A member of NetRight; and
- Women's Manifesto Coalition.

Ongoing activities

Advocates for the establishment of Child Panels at district level which aims at sensitizing families on child abuse, ensure parental compliance towards children;

WiLDAF is working in collaboration with FIDA, the Hunger Project, Gender Center, and COWIG on Affirmative Action for women representation in politics. Copies of the draft document have been presented to two committees of parliament – gender and children; and legal and constitutional affairs;

Advocacy work in collaboration with the MDG coalition to work on the MDG 3 – to address the gender equality concerns of the country, creating awareness commemorating stand up against poverty campaign and the international women’s day.

Initiatives – National and International

WiLDAF-Ghana has made tremendous contribution to disseminating information on the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* – produced a shadow report for its 36th session; produced a toolkit: *“Toolkit on CEDAW: the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women”* (CEDAW); provided training for government officials, NGOs, MPs on CEDAW etc; advocated for the Ghana government to ratify the CEDAW protocol in 2007.

Publications and Research

- *“Consensual Unions in Western Region, their Relationship to Violence against Women and property Rights”*;
- *“The protocol to the African Center on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa”*.

Other publications

WiLDAF-Ghana also publishes documents on policy initiatives, political events and circulates these documents to citizens as part of its advocacy and sensitization drive. The following are some of WiLDAF-Ghana’s work:

- *“Domestic violence Act, 2007, Act 732”* (simplified version) – to educate the public on “the domestic violence Act in a simple language with illustrations and to make it reader friendly;
- *“Pathway to Law Reform: Advocating Rights of Persons in Consensual Unions in Ghana (2006-2008)”* – this collaborative work with Rights and Voice Initiative was to contribute to an effective promotion and protection of the rights of partners, especially women, in long term consensual unions which have not been formalized.
- *“Gender Analysis of 2008 Election”* – provides perspectives of women on the 2008 elections in Ghana particularly to ascertain the reasons why few women are contesting for elections and why even fewer women are getting elected so as to proffer recommendations for improvement;

- ***“Citizens Education for Election Guidebook”*** – collaborative work with DFID, Koninkrijk der Nederlanden, provides the citizenry with knowledge on the voting process as well as the Do’s don’ts of elections – raises the issue of women’s participation in politics i.e. an empowering learning tool for citizens.
- ***“Process of law making in Ghana”*** (with EU, WiLDAF/FeDAF, WASRO/BSRAO).
- *Gender, Access to Justice and Control over Land in the Ga West and Dangme East Districts in Greater Accra Region*
- *Access to and Control over Land from a Gender Perspective: A Study Conducted in the Volta Region*
- *Analysis of Affirmative Action Policy for Women’s Participation in Political Decision Making in Ghana*