



Ghana Research & Advocacy Programme

G-RAP NARRATIVE REPORT

(Jan 2009 – Jun 2009)

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1.1 CONTEXT

This report is a compilation of 2009 first semester narrative reports from 29 RAOs and networks who received grants in July 2008 (20 Core Grants and 4 Special Project Grants) and January 2009 (6 special project grants). Each grantee reports to a narrative format designed to track organisational/institutional development during the reporting period as well as the RAOs engagement with pro-poor policy processes in Ghana. Financial reporting formats track the financial status of each organisation and the level of utilisation of G-rap funds.

The policy environment in Ghana during the reporting period was characterised by one major event. The NDC led government was taking over the administration of the country from NPP, literally putting the whole country in a transition phase. Key policy initiatives in parliament and leading government agencies were suspended or postponed to enable the new government take stock of processes and fill new positions. The new government presented its budget for the rest of the financial year and made key policy statements on corruption, the state of the economy and a new northern Ghana development initiative. The oil find continued to dominate public debate and received some attention from state and non state agencies.

The G-rap PMT continued to support the institutional development of the RAO community it provides grants to. During the period under review the PMT provided financial management training to identify RAOs who were assessed as weak from their financial reports. Other RAOs were given the opportunity to also join the training voluntarily. The financial management consultants provided customized training to individual RAOs based on their assessed needs. An expected outcome of this exercise is improved financial reporting from the grantees. A day's working session was also organised to address weaknesses in narrative reporting by grantees. The full day workshop provided opportunity for grantees to understand the reasoning behind all the information gathered and what information is actually required of grantees. It is interesting to note here that some of the grantees whose reporting in the last semester was assessed as weak have greatly improved reporting, while the good ones have become even better.

2.1 COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

The RAO community has been active at building alliances and working with relevant stakeholders in their quest to promote policy change. Building networks and alliances have been identified as a critical part of policy change. G-rap actively promotes the building of alliances between RAOs through several forums and monitors each RAO's networks with other stakeholders in the policy space.

RAOs collaborated with a wide range of government, CSOs and donor agencies during the period under review. Key among these are the executive, Parliament and the Attorney General's office. RAOs with different thematic focus network intensively with relevant ministries as they advocate policy change in a particular sector.

Gender and Women's Rights

In line with their mandate to promote gender rights and equality, gender and women's rights, RAOs continue to collaborate with the line ministry in charge of women and children's affairs (MOWAC), the attorney general's office and the legislature. They also continue to work through coalitions like the Implementation group of the Domestic Violence Act and the Women's Manifesto Coalition which are all working towards promoting gender rights and social development in Ghana.

The ARK Foundation collaborated with government agencies, including DOVVSU, CSOs, MOWAC, Parliament, on the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act through the National Advocacy Programme (NAP). Under the NAP project, ARK has shared with all relevant institutions, findings from monitoring the implementation of the DV act. The forum was attended by about fifty individuals from a range of institutions including the Ghana Police Service, the Department of Social Welfare, Ghana Health service, the Judiciary, women's rights organizations and other non-governmental organizations. The key findings presented included the need for strong leadership and coordination in training, protocols and guidelines, monitoring/ evaluation, service provision, and mass education on the DV Act. It was also agreed that beyond the NAP Project in 2010, the burden of monitoring and evaluation will fall back on the Domestic Violence Coalition and its members.

The ARK Foundation remained active in its traditional networks and coalitions, NETRIGHT, DV Coalition, and WILDAF. Ark also collaborated with institutions like LAWA, FIDA, WISE, AWLA and WILDAF through coalition meetings geared towards the promotion of women's human rights.

The ARK Foundation works together with a host of CBOs to achieve its goals. It championed the formation of RADNET (Rights and Development Network) in the East Akyem district under the RAVI/REAP project and has more than 10 CBO members. Although the RADNET was formed under Ark's REAP Project the relationship still exists and the CBOs make full use of Ark's crisis intervention services which makes RADNET still operational. Through this network Ark continues its anti-violence advocacy at local governance level in the Eastern Region. The last semester saw community women still referring clients to Ark's legal and psycho social services which enable them access justice in family/gender violence issues. They are also able to demand better human rights protection of women and children from local and traditional authorities.

The ARK Foundation's work in the last semester was supported by a host of donors including, ACTIONAID, G-RAP, CORDAID, AWDF and WOMANKIND. These donors are supporting organizational and staff capacity development, Support to survivor's program, Women's Leadership and Human Rights program.

The last period has seen WiLDAF engaging effectively with the Presidency, Parliament and the ruling NDC Government on the election of a female speaker of parliament and a move to meet 40% Affirmative Action quota in NDC Manifesto.

WiLDAF also collaborated with the Women's Caucus of Parliament, Vetting Committee of Parliament and Female Members of Parliament, during the period under review. The key issues of collaboration included Capacity building workshop on Gender Budgeting on February 12, 2009 which was attended by 12 MPs and as a major outcome, an increase in the budget of the line ministry, MOWAC, by 14% for the current financial year. Copies of position paper on Gender Equality developed by WiLDAF and distributed to all female ministers designate and the vetting committee.

During the same period, WiLDAF worked with relevant government agencies like MOWAC, Attorney General's Office, Judiciary and the Police Service on the Property Rights of Spouses Bill, Implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. The property rights of spouses relapsed when the old Parliament was closed. A position paper is being developed for advocacy when the Bill is presented to Parliament. WiLDAF anticipates that it will be called to Parliament to make a formal presentation to the Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee.

WiLDAF remained active in its thematic networks during the period under review. As a member of NETRIGHT, WiLDAF engaged around the Mental Health debate in the Social Watch Report and presented its concerns to MOWAC. Under governance, WiLDAF collaborated with ActionAid & CoWiG (Coalition of women in governance) to commemorate IWD particularly encouraging people to continue care of those with HIV/AIDS. The theme for this year's celebration was 'Women and Men unite to end Violence Against Women and Children VAWAC (National theme – The Burden of Care: Men do your Share)'

On the 'We Know Politics project' platform, WiLDAF and its partners focused on Women in Politics, paying special attention to the results of the last elections. The group held a press conference on 2nd January 2009 which called on NPP to withdraw a motion to place an injunction on the Electoral Commission on declaration of final results. The NPP responded positively to this call.

On the International front, WiLDAF is working to increase pressure on African states to ratify CEDAW and the African Charter Protocol on Women's Rights. Ghana is yet to ratify the Optional Protocol on CEDAW.

WiLDAF Collaborated with a number of donors during the period under review. The donors mainly provided funding resources for the programmes listed above. Some of the donors cited in the period under review include DFID & Royal Netherlands Embassy, ActionAid Ghana, GTZ, WomanKind UK, Cordaid, Olof Palme Foundation, and the Kenoli Foundation. The organisation also received support from the its West African office for the Rural Women's Empowerment Project under which 55 women from Ga East and Ga West Districts were trained as legal literacy volunteers. These

volunteers would support women's access and control to land, domestic violence and inheritance complaints.

WiLDAF worked in a number of districts during the period under review. The organisation's flagship programme, Women's access to justice programme runs in Keta, Kete Krachi East, Krachi West, Shama. In these communities, the programme through community leaders have knowledge of 5 family related laws (Marriage, Divorce, Inheritance, Children, Domestic Violence), and skills for community mobilisation, provision of 'legal first aid' to vulnerable people. In the Ga East & Ga West, WiLDAF under the Rural Women's Empowerment programme, trained 61 women and men trained on legal literacy education, particularly, on land. 20 women constitute 2 committees in the 2 districts to deal with cases of violation of women's rights.

FIDA's key contact with government was through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Legal Aid Board. FIDA held consultations with MOWAC on the implementation plan of Domestic Violence law through the National Advocacy Plan. FIDA also sought to formalize its relation with coordinators of the Legal Aid Board in all regions to facilitate its work on community mediation.

Like all other gender based organisations, FIDA works with other networks to promote policy change. FIDA worked with NETRIGHT on the UNCTAD XII meetings, developing key strategies on areas to pressure government to act on trade issues. FIDA also worked with SWAA to retrain paralegals in Upper East, Northern, Eastern and Greater Accra regions to empower HIV positive women to address gender based violence. Paralegals and sister watch groups in target regions were identified and trained to offer support to HIV positive women. In the Women Peace and Security Network (WIPSEN), FIDA contributed the development of policy recommendations to UNHCR, Liberian government, and development partners on Women building bridges reconciliation between host and refugee communities

In terms of collaboration with the RAO community, the last period saw FIDA working with six organisations: Abantu, Ark Foundation, WISE, LAWA, WiLDAF, Gender Centre, to develop a proposal on gender equality in 30 districts for consideration by the Dutch government. The organisation also partnered with WiLDAF to consolidate the progress of women's rights organizations to improve women's participation in politics. FIDA works with the ARK Foundation and other gender organisations in the National Advocacy Partnership Project which focuses on working with policy institutions on issues of domestic violence.

FIDA is supported by a host of donor organisations. The UNFPA supports FIDA's Programme to empower disadvantaged women with the necessary knowledge and information on their rights as well as legal tools to enable them defend their rights. AWDF supported the organisation to undertake three activities during the period, Research on Women's economic empowerment, capacity building to upgrade business skills of selected female clients and a research on finding solutions to legal challenges facing women living with HIV/Aids. The German Day supports FIDA's legal literacy programme. Under the programme 400 women, men and community leaders have been sensitized on women's legal rights while 10 women received onsite legal assistance. Cordaid supports FIDA's programme to improve Women's access to justice in Northern Ghana.

NETRIGHT did not report any engagement with government and its agencies during the period. Being a network itself, NETRIGHT engaged extensively in other networks during the period under review.

NETRIGHT participated in meetings and workshops of several coalitions during the period. These include the Women's Manifesto Coalition on supporting women's participation in governance and decision making processes, the Domestic Violence Coalition to create awareness and advocate for the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, Civil Society Coalition on Land; Gender Equality and Land Reforms.

NETRIGHT is the host of Social Watch Ghana. During the period, NETRIGHT coordinated the Social Watch Ghana 2009 Report which focused on the global financial crisis. In addition, it organised two coalition meetings, participated in a meeting in Cotonou and hosted the Social Watch General Assembly in Ghana in 2009.

Like the other Gender based organisations, the Gender Centre engaged the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs on the implementation of the DV act. In collaboration with the DV Coalition and as a member of the steering committee for the coalition, the Gender Centre was part of a team that met the new minister for MOWAC on April 8, 2009 to discuss the implementation of the DV Act based on the National Plan of Action already developed and assured her of the organisation's support.

The group drew the Minister's attention to a provision in the DV Act about the composition of membership of management boards for the Act and Civil Society representation on these boards. The group wanted all the two slots for CSOs on the board to be allocated to the coalition as was done under the previous administration but this was declined by the minister who assured the group of only one slot. The need to initiate a process to adopt a Legislative Instrument (LI) for the implementation of the Act was also emphasised. The Gender Centre's documented model of Community- based response to violence was shared with the minister to adopt as a strategy in rural communities to reduce DV. The Gender Centre also joined forces in the DV coalition to develop priority areas in the implementation of the DV Act for submission to MOWAC. The Coalition developed seven priority areas which were submitted to the Minister on April 8, 2009 as part of a document from the women's movement in Ghana.

The Centre also worked with the Ghana Aids Commission through Pro-link Organization on Protecting Women and Girls from HIV infection through the use of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) facility for victims of sexual violence especially rape. Project pre-implementation meetings were held with 3 district assemblies out of the 6 ear-marked for this project. Discussions have been held with district health directorate to start such treatment. The Centre is working on creating awareness on cultural practices that make women and girls susceptible to HIV infection and advocating for its abolishment.

The Centre worked closely with other RAOs and CBOs during the period under review. It worked with Amasachina, Pro-Link and Rural Watch – Ghana on reducing Women's Susceptibility to HIV infection due to Gender Inequality in Ghana. The group started working together to address the

gender norms that make women more vulnerable to HIV infection. So far, baseline studies have been done in 3 communities; data analysis is on-going.

DFID and the Royal Netherlands Embassy supported the Centre and partners of “We Know Politics” project made two presentations on the project to DFID/Netherlands Embassy on two separate occasions (16th January, 09 and March 25, 09) as part of debriefing sessions on the progress made on the project and to chart a way forward. This is a collaborative effort among 5 organizations being coordinated by WiLDAF. Alternative strategies on how to increase women’s political representation were discussed. Affirmative action policy featured prominently in the discussion. The presentations generated donors’ interest in the project and partners made a passionate appeal for continuous support.

Anti Corruption

The Ghana Anti Corruption Coalition (GACC) at the governmental level collaborated with the Ministry of Justice & Attorney General’s Department on High level Round Table Discussions on the need for Government to show political commitment by reviewing some Anti-Corruption Laws for their effective implementation and also work with the Coalition to create a broad base forum to work to minimise corruption. 20 participants including the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Justice, the Public Prosecutor, the head of Drafting Legislations, GACC members, Senior Management of the Ministry and Media were present at the discussions. A compendium of anti-corruption laws was published by the Ministry to show its commitment and political will in the fight against corruption.

GACC also worked with the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and that on State Enterprises. GACC organised a workshop and dialogue on “Effective financial management in Public Finance, the role of Parliamentary Committee on Finance and Public Accounts”. 35 Members from the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises of Parliament, and 23 participants drawn from the media, civil society (ISODEC, SEND, CDD, GII, PEF), Audit service, Internal Audit Agency, Public Procurement Board, and Revenue Agencies Governing Board participated in the workshop. The Public Accounts committee committed to discharge their role in the management of the Public Finance. GACC will track decisions of the Public accounts committee and follow up with the Executive on the implementation of their findings.

The coalition also worked with the Electoral Commission of Ghana on Transparency and Accountability in Political Parties Annual Accounts presented to the Electoral Commission and bribery in elections. Preparations are ongoing to collaborate with the EC and an Accounting firm to develop standard account reporting format for Political Parties. A forum organised by GACC on this issue attracted 20 participants comprising the Commissioners and management of the Electoral Commission and the media. Issues discussed further generated a lot of media discussions.

GACC has done a lot of work with the Public Procurement Authority. Currently, GACC is developing a programme to build the capacity of CSO/CBO on the procurement procedures. A training manual is being developed for training of CSOs and CBO’s in six districts. It is expected that the capacity of 45 CSOs in six districts in three regions will be enhanced on implementation of anti-corruption laws

(Procurement Law, Conflict of Interest, Whistleblower Law), and to use them for monitoring corruption at the local level)

GACC also worked with the state anti corruption institutions; CHRAJ/SFO, Auditor General, Controller & Accountant General's Office, Audit Service, Serious Fraud Office, Internal Audit Agency, Public Services Commission and the Office of the President. Roundtable discussions were held to review the Whistleblower Amendment Bill, Economic & Crime Bill and the Public Officers Liability Bill. 20 participants from 15 institutions attended the roundtable discussions. A report on identified gaps in these laws will be presented to the Constitutional sub-committee of Parliament for consideration.

GACC hosts the new Coalition of NGO Networks-Ghana, an umbrella organisation of NGO networks both thematic and regional based NGOs operating in Ghana. The network seeks to build effective, well ran NGO networks that have the capacity to campaign on behalf of their various constituencies, while being accountable to their boards, members and the general public. It envisages a future where aid is effectively used – not for the benefit of the few but to mitigate the needs of the majority.

GACC is a member of the freedom of information coalition that is working to promote enhanced accountability and transparency of Government, as well as greater participation in the democratic process through the mechanism of the right to information legislation. The network is advocating for the Amendment of the Freedom of Information Bill and its passage. A strong network of 80 institutions and individuals across the country has been built to advocate for the passage of the bill. Government has promised to pass the legislation

GACC is seeking collaboration to promote the Implementation of the UN Global compact Principle 10 on anti-corruption. GACC through its members and activities works with the Ghana Business Code to advocate and educate businesses on the need to work against all forms of corruption, including bribery. The project is at the initial stage. About 150 firms have signed onto the code. They range from large through medium to small scale businesses. There has been an initial discussion to develop an MOU for collaboration for implementation.

The Ghana Advocacy Steering committee for a National Broadcasting Law is a voluntary, non-partisan initiative of concerned organisations and individuals formed in 2004 to facilitate the development and passage of a national broadcasting law that will enable broadcasting to serve the public interest within the context of both Chapters 6 and 12 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. It facilitates roundtable discussions on the formation of a network of CSOs to advocate for the passage of a Broadcasting law. An independent and effective Public Broadcasting is necessary for the fight against corruption. GACC in collaboration with other CSO networks will use its platform to advocate for the passage of the law. It comprises 20 members drawn from Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, the Ghana Independent Broadcasters' Association, Ghana Journalists Association, Media Foundation for West Africa, Ghana Community Radio Network, and Academia.

GACC was supported by a number of donors during the period under review. These include G-rap, World Bank and the UNDP.

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) has been working with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department to launch its Advocacy and legal advice centre (ALAC) – ALAC focuses on assisting and giving advice to victims and witnesses of corruption and to provide the avenues available to deal with the situation

GII worked with the Ghana Audit Service, Parliament (Subsidiary legislation Committee), Attorney General's Department, and CHRAJ on strengthening the asset declaration law in Ghana. GII proposed regulations to Act 550 and amendments to Act 550 & Article 286 of the constitution.

GII also worked with CHRAJ on the Institutionalisation of Conflict of Interest (COI) Guidelines. This included Advocacy and sensitization of public officials including Parliamentarians and ministers on how to identify and manage conflict of interest situations in the discharge of their duties.

GII was active in several networks during the period under review. It is active in the Ghana Anti-corruption Coalition and is a member of the freedom of information coalition. The latter is advocating for the passage of the Freedom of Information bill and has received promise from the current government to pass this legislation.

Human Rights

The Media Foundation for West Africa collaborated with the legislature and the Executive, media, traditional authorities and the NCCE on the Right to Information Bill. It also engaged with traditional authorities in workshops to engage them on the need for the right to information bill. The Chieftaincy Institution is categorized as a public body to be covered by the law. Chiefs must undertake proper record keeping and be well positioned to disclose information upon request.

The Foundation also engaged the legislature and the executive on the Defamation Bill 2006 – The bill is a very restrictive and an anti-free expression piece of legislation drafted by the A-G's office. MFWA commissioned a critical review and produced a legal opinion that was published and launched. The critique subsequently came to the attention of the Attorney General and discussions were held towards possible review taking into account the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression and of the media.

CEPIL collaborated with the Attorney Generals' Department, Ministry of Energy, Energy Commission and the Ministry of Environment and Science to organise a training workshop on Oil and Gas Contracts. About 35 Participants including Members of Parliament, officials from the EPA, the Energy Commission and Civil Society Organizations were trained on how to negotiate oil and gas contracts. Other topics discussed at the training include the legal framework for oil and gas, revenue management and sharing mechanism. Participants from Nigeria, Kenya, UK, Khyzestan shared their experiences of their countries with the participants. The training workshop was widely publicised in both electronic and print media.

CEPIL also engaged Parliament on the Petroleum Regulatory Bill. A round table conference was held on the Draft Petroleum Regulatory Bills which was then before Parliament with the active participation of officials from the Ministry of energy, and EPA. In total, 45 participants attended the

workshop The Bill was later withdrawn from Parliament and CEPIL could not submit a memorandum to parliament on the inputs that the participants made on the bill.

As a member of National Coalition on Mining, CEPIL joined forces in the network to campaign on two fronts. The campaign to Stop Violence in Mining areas in Ghana and the campaign for the government and the Environmental Protection Agency to revoke mining permits granted to Newmont mining company on the Ajejua Bepo forest reserve and Adamus Resource Ltd in Telekou Bokazo.

CEPIL worked with WACAM to provide free legal services including court room representation to mining communities in Tarkwa, Prestea Domase and other areas. CEPIL and WACAM also sensitized journalists on the ECOWAS Directive for the Harmonization of Mining Codes in West Africa. They held a press conference urging government to adopt the guiding principles in the ECOWAS Directive for the Harmonization of Mining Codes.

CEPIL also collaborated with WACAM to provide the first phase of paralegal training on oil and gas to coastal communities in the Western Region.

CEPIL collaborated with IIED to organise a Paralegal Training for 32 members of CBOs working with forest fringed communities on how to negotiate for better social responsibility agreements with Timber companies.

The Legal Resource Centre is working with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to improve CSO participation in local governance. There is ongoing capacity building efforts for CBOs involved in promoting civil society participation in local governance.

The LRC was active in several networks during the period under review. It is a member of the Coalition on Human Rights in Oil and Gas (CHROG). This is a coalition of human rights based NGOs who are working on oil and gas themes. LRC is responsible for providing legal expertise for the coalition. This includes drafting a constitution for the coalition.

LRC is also a member of the Ghana Network of NGOs against human trafficking (GACNET). The network is to provide a platform for the sharing of best practices in the fight against human trafficking. The Network is also an avenue for the capacity building for members on the various aspects of work as related to combating human trafficking in Ghana. Initial meetings towards formally establishing the network was held during the period under review. An interim Management Committee was also formed.

LRC works closely with GII in an advisory role on the ALAC. It also wrote a paper on the role of Civil Society in the enforcement of Ghana's Persons with Disability Law (Act 715) and the UN Disability Convention delivered by the Executive Director of the LRC at the invitation of the Ghana Federation of the Disabled.

Political and Economic Governance

RAOs working in governance appear to be better networked and can be compared to that of the gender based institutions.

IDEG collaborated with the Parliamentary Committee on Growth and Poverty Reduction on the review of Annual Progress Report on GPRS II Implementation.

The institute is the secretariat for Local Government Network (LOGNET) and the Governance Issues Forum Network (GIFNET); both working on local governance issues. The LOGNet registration process has been finalised as a legal entity and its 2009 Work Plan was finalised, which enabled the organisation to raise funds for the 2009 programme activities (\$200,000 in pledged funds from GTZ and \$100,000 from UNDP);

Through the GIFNET, IDEG has managed to develop a strong network of NGOs and CBOs at the district level and constantly engages them to promote local governance. Fund raising proposals were sent to donor organisations as part of efforts aimed at sustaining, strengthening and expanding the GIFs as a platform for promoting citizen-government engagement at the local level. It is also working towards repositioning the GIFs – including marginalized people in 7 districts under GTF funding (Ashiaman Municipality, New Juaben Municipality, Ho Municipality, Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam District, Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis, East Gonja District and Bawku Municipality). The GIF/GTF baseline study on Governance and civic participation at district level in the 7 districts has been completed.

The IEA collaborates with the executive, judiciary and the legislature on constitutional reforms. Under The Institute's Ghana Political Parties' Programme, a Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP) was finalised and launched in 2008. As a result, a constitutional review Committee was mentioned by all the Presidential Candidates who participated in The IEA Presidential Debates and Evening Encounters. The IEA has thus begun negotiations for a possible collaboration with the current government to undertake this national exercise. This is to help ensure an inclusive process so that the reforms would be accepted and owned by all stakeholders. At a recent visit by a delegation of the IEA/GPPP to the President, members of the delegation reminded the President of his earlier mention of government's interest in the constitutional reforms. He was also informed that The IEA had already commenced work on the issue and the Institute was willing to coordinate the Constitutional Review Process. The President re-assured the delegation of his government's commitment to the reforms and promised to accord it all the necessary attention it deserves. The IEA is therefore lobbying government continuously for the start of the Constitutional Review Process.

During the period under review, the Standing Orders Committee of Parliament commissioned the IEA to review the Standing Orders in the august House. Fifteen areas were identified for consideration for the review process. Some of these include:

- ✓ Interpretation of the Orders
- ✓ General Contempt of Parliament
- ✓ Statements by Members

- ✓ Petitions
- ✓ Voting in the House with regards to division
- ✓ Scope or remit of committees, etc

The review is being carried out to produce Standing Orders that would regulate and govern proceedings in the House in a more effective way.

The Presidential Transition Bill seeks to regulate the transfer of power from one democratically-elected government to another. The evolution of the draft Bill involved a very elaborate consultative process of a study, findings, recommendations, discussions, drafting, validation and re-drafting covering well over one and a half years. The Draft Bill acted as the blueprint for the transitional processes between January and March, 2009. The IEA used the experience of the 2009 transition to work further on the Draft Bill. Views were solicited from the 2009 Transition Team on the use of the Draft Bill after which several meetings were held with various stakeholders, political parties and CSOs. The 2008 Bill was thus subjected to rigorous critique and amendment which has culminated into the Presidential Transition Bill 2009. Additional considerations which the new Bill seeks to address include the following:

- ✓ Conflict Resolution in which an Advisory Committee will play an intermediary role to ensure compromise between out-going and in-coming officials
- ✓ Inventory and Stock-taking where the Bill proposes the appointment of an Administrative General in charge of the Presidential Estates Unit to take inventory of all state assets
- ✓ Vacation of Official Residence where Clause 10 provides clear deadlines by which time former officials should have vacated their official residences
- ✓ Officials ceasing to hold office - Under this consideration, the categories of officers who have to vacate their position when there is a change in government should be defined by law

Copies of the new Presidential Transition Bill have been presented by The IEA to the President and the Attorney General. The President therefore made mention of the Bill and his commitment to see its passage into law when he delivered his maiden sectional address to Parliament. It is hoped that when the Bill is finally passed into law, the acrimony and political tension that characterises Governmental transitions in Ghana would be reduced drastically.

The IEA is also working with Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Trade and Industry on a Research Project on Articulating Appropriate Trade Policies and Trade Policy Mainstreaming in Agriculture. The Agricultural Trade Policy Project is being implemented by The IEA in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).. The research focuses on four main areas. These are:

- ✓ Articulation of appropriate trade policies based on sound economic analysis
- ✓ Aid for Trade: The process of identifying and prioritising trade-related support measures in Agriculture

- ✓ Mainstreaming Trade in the GPRSII
- ✓ Analysing the impact of trade policy on poverty

The overall aim is to mainstream trade policies into agricultural production and marketing in order to improve the agricultural sector. The launch was attended by the Deputy Minister and Director of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Director of the Ministry of Trade & Industries, Members of Parliament, the FAO Country Representative, experts in the agriculture and trade sectors and other auxiliary groups such as exporters and importers. The Research Team for the Project, made up of Senior Lecturers of the Department of Agric and Economics at the University of Ghana was also introduced. The experts gave varied views on how Ghana's Trade Policy can be improved to benefit the economy. The project is ongoing with data collection of the three main crops being studied (Cocoa, Rice and Pineapple) almost complete.

The IEA is working together with ABANTU and FIDA on the Ghana Political Parties Programme. In its efforts to help increase the number of women in politics, the IEA set out to conduct research into the low female participation in politics. The research culminated in a Draft Women's Manual which outlines the following five major points:

- ✓ Ghana has to take deliberate positive steps, enact laws and adopt affirmative action favouring women and other vulnerable groups at the political party and national level.
- ✓ There should be a monitoring and an evaluation system to ensure implementation of such enacted laws
- ✓ Lobbying and advocacy by interest groups should continue against the hierarchical patriarchal systems that reinforce the status quo of marginalisation of women
- ✓ Practical and structural obstacles of gender inequality that exist in all facets of our society would have to give way to an institutionalised transformation that establishes gender-ised structures
- ✓ Legislative and political regulations should be designed to implement effective quota mechanisms

The IEA collaborated with the Canadian High Commission to organise a workshop for the executives of the four Political Parties with representation in Parliament and key female party members. The objective of the workshop was to help participants reflect on and draw useful insights from the challenges faced by their female candidates in primary and national elections. This was necessary especially in the wake of the reduction in the number of female parliamentarians from the 2008 elections. The participants were also to define and commit to a strategy and plan of action for increasing the numbers and building the quality of their female candidates for elections. The workshop also helped finalise the Women's Manual by reviewing the strategies and outlining a plan of Action. At the end of the workshop, the Political Party Executives prepared and signed a Joint Communiqué to commit to the strategies which are to help increase female participation in politics. In particular, they resolved to implement Affirmative Action and establish a Voluntary Quota of 30% for women in order to address the imbalances in representation.

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) collaborates with the IEA on its Ghana Political Parties Programme. The programme aims at levelling the playing field, building the institutional capacity and improving the image of political parties in the eyes of the public. During the period under review, all the monthly meetings for the Chairmen's Caucus and the Platform of General Secretaries and Policy Analysts were held. The meetings have provided a platform for a thorough and dispassionate review and discussion of the 2008 general elections, its challenges and the way forward. At the meetings, there were also thorough discussions of action plans of the political parties. Other issues which the Caucus and Platform members deliberated on include the use of The IEA/GPPP Draft Presidential Transition Bill for the 2009 Governmental Transition, Constitutional Reforms as outlined in the DCSP as well as a capacity training workshop that was organised for the Political Parties by the Berenschoft Group.

Political Party Executives also continue to hold discussions with institutions of State such as the Electoral Commission and the National Commission for Civic Education on consolidating democracy in Ghana.

The IEA worked with Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Members of the Business Community, Private Enterprises Foundation (PEF) and Economists, Academia, Barclays Bank, Standard Chartered Bank on the impact of the global financial crisis on Ghana on a research initiated by the IEA on the Global Financial Crisis in the Prior Period. Following from the initial paper that was produced, extensive investigations were done into the differential impacts of the Crisis on Ghana. A detailed and comprehensive research Paper has now been produced which outlines the following recommendations among others to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the poor in Ghana.

- ✓ Achieving sustained high growth with stability which can be done through reforms in the public sector, development of infrastructure as well as support to the agriculture sector and domestic industries
- ✓ Strengthening of the financial sector through provision of credit to small and medium sized business and other informal activities
- ✓ Mobilising resources for growth and poverty reduction through domestic resource mobilisation e.g. Domestic Capital Markets, Broadening of the Tax Net, Issuing of Bonds, etc
- ✓ Future Relationships with the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs). Ghana should be more proactive to look for other sources of external financing in order to graduate from IMF resources and be able to access international capital markets

CDD worked with the judiciary on HIV and AIDS anti stigmatization and human rights initiative. The program is aimed at improving the legal and policy space for anti –stigmatization of persons living with HIV and AIDS particularly most at risk population. The Center also collaborated with the Judiciary to facilitate the conduct of research on state supported justice delivery institutions under the Africa, Power and Politics program. Collaboration on both fronts is ongoing.

CDD-Ghana also worked with the police & prisons services, Ghana Aids commission, Association of People living with HIV/AIDS on the HIV and AIDS anti stigmatization and human rights initiative. All

the institutions are collaborating with the Center on this project which is ongoing. The Center has secured the buy in and ownership of all the key stakeholders including the Police, Prisons, Judicial Service, Ghana Association of People living with HIV/AIDS and AIDS Commission.

Socio-Economic Development

SEND Foundation collaborates with the National Secretariat of Ghana School Feeding Programme on monitoring the implementation of the programme in 23 districts. During the period under review SEND engaged in a number of activities around the GSFP. 2nd participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) report on the GSFP titled “Challenges of Institutional Collaboration” has been published and launched. The report assessed the state of complementary services in the GSFP. The findings of the report were used extensively by the media as the basis for phone-in discussions on the GSFP.

SEND successfully organised a national policy dialogue on the GSFP which brought together state and non-state actors to deliberate on the key challenges facing the GSFP and found ways of addressing them. The outcome of the dialogue fed a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to discuss joint organisation of policy dialogue. SEND has secured the commitment of the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to improve the state of complementary services in the GSFP. SEND also mobilised civil society in northern Ghana to actively participate in the GSFP; and collaborate with state officials to addressing practical needs of the schools covered by the GSFP.

SEND also collaborated with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on the aid effectiveness agenda. The organisation is working to revive stakeholder interests and participation in the Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum after the CSO parallel conference on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana. It has completed a mapping of Ghana’s Aid architecture and is in the process of undertaking capacity assessment of the various platforms of the Forum.

SEND is supporting the National Health Insurance Authority to develop participatory monitoring and evaluation systems for the scheme

SEND is active in several networks and coalitions. In the Ghana Trade and Livelihoods Coalition (GTLC), the first PM&E report on the implications of trade liberalisation on small scale producers was published and launched. The capacity of local farmers has been built to lobby policy makers (national and international) to be sensitive to the potential effects of the EPAs on their livelihood security. One such farmer from the East Gonja district was supported by SEND/ FIAN to lobby EU parliamentarians in Germany and the Netherlands. Under the auspices of GRASP, SEND lobbied the AU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development in Ethiopia to influence African governments to increase budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector. The network has secured the commitment of the Northern Rural Development Programme and district assemblies such as Nadowli, East Gonja, Dangbe East to address the production needs of women farmers.

On the Ghana CSO MDG Campaign Coalition, SEND published and launched a participatory monitoring and evaluation report on Ghana’s progress on the MDGs. Reports has been distributed to the various platforms of the Ghana CSO MDG Campaign Coalition to support advocacy. Out of one of

the outcomes of the advocacy efforts on the MDG report, the Bongo District Assembly has put in place measures to improve the quality of education. These include: the construction of new classroom block with disability friendly features; recruitment of untrained teachers as a stopgap measure to address low teacher - pupil ratio; and enforcement of disciplinary actions against absentee and drunk-teachers.

SEND received extensive donor support for its Grassroots Economic Literacy and Advocacy Programme (GELAP). DFID, Christian Aid, CORDAID, IBIS West Africa, SNV, and SIGN-NL contributed to sensitising ordinary citizens on the GSFP to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To build the capacity of citizens to provide regular feedback on the implementation of GSFP to state officials to improve programme performance.
2. To enable ordinary citizens to hold state officials responsible for the GSFP accountable to ensure that the programme is implemented according to initial design to benefit the poor.

ISODEC engaged with a number of government institutions during the period under review. It engaged the Ministry of Finance, Ghana EITI Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, Ministry of Mines and Forestry on the cost of Validation of the EITI process to be funded for the World Bank Trust Fund. It also engaged the Attorney General's Department, Commission on Human Rights & Administrative Justice on Human rights abuse acknowledged by government agencies and are working together with the CSOs to stem it.

ISODEC also engaged the Ministry of Energy, Ghana National Petroleum Company and Internal Revenue Service on the transparency and accountability in the petroleum sector. It submitted a briefing paper on the fiscal regime for the Jubilee field. Discussion is on going around local content, skills development and finalisation of key document on petroleum – legal and fiscal framework

ISODEC belongs to the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC), Northern Network for Education Development (NNED), Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHRs), Ghana Publish What You Pay Coalition (G- PWYP), Ghana Trade and Livelihoods Coalitions (GTLC), Peasant Farmers, Health Network and the National Coalition on Mining (NCOM). It also has a vast network of local NGOs and CBOs.

ISODEC engaged with host of donors for its work during this period. USAID/ World Education Initiative supported needy girls and boys orphaned by HIV/AIDS with scholarships; 1078 pupils received scholarship. SIMAVI funded Family Reproductive Health Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services in 10 communities and 20 schools across the Northern and Upper East Regions. KASA supports ISODEC's natural resource governance work and have funded the training of 3 Extractive Engagement Groups at Tarkwa, Obuasi and Asutifi in budget revenue tracking. Oxfam Novib supported a programme aimed at enhancing the livelihood of the poor through a community owned micro credit scheme at Kwame Anum in the Ga West district.

TWN-Africa engaged the Ministry of Trade and the vice Presidency on the Trade and investment policy in Ghana. TWN-Africa has been working to influence national trade policies in order to avert hardships to Ghanaians and local industry. Many workshops and policy briefings have been held in

the past for officials at various levels. With the change in government in 2009, the organization felt obliged to engage it on urgent free trade agreements being negotiated between Ghana and the EU

A policy brief on the state of the EPA negotiations in Africa and its implications for Ghana's economy and the sub-region's integration efforts was prepared and submitted to the Vice President, Dramamaani Mahama in April. TWN together with some partners participated in a trade policy forum hosted by the Ministry of Trade and made presentations on trade policy generally and the EPA in Africa. Officers also engaged officials from the EU in debates. The organisation publicised its positions through 2 page advert in Daily Graphic. The Minister of Trade has since these engagements announced publicly and has continued to reiterate the government's caution about signing full EPAs or any trade agreements in the face of concerns raised by stakeholders.

TWN-Africa engaged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary Committee on Trade on regional integration and development. Minister of foreign Affairs and other officials as well as Chair of Parliamentary Committee on Trade joined TWN-A to launch UNCTAD report on regional integration in Africa. Both officials undertook to work further with TWN-A to put regional integration at centre of national policy.

TWN and its partners participated in the 45th session of the ACHPR in May, yielding the following;

- TWN officer at the meeting was requested to work with the secretariat to merge the non-state actors' document with that from the Centre of Environmental Development so as to enable its inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting
- A request was made to the commission to institute a working group on extractives and human rights

TWN is active in several networks working in the extractive sector and also on trade policy like the Ghana National Coalition on Mining, Economic Justice Network and the Africa Trade Network. TWN also engaged Tullow Oil executives to discuss implications of oil industry for national and district level development and role of company in district development

Peace Building

WANEP, collaborated with the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Information in the period under review. With a new Government in place, WANEP advocated through the Ministry of the Interior for sustaining the Peace Architecture in Ghana. This will require a legislative instrument for the National Peace Council (NPC) and making the Regional Peace Councils functional. The Minister for the Interior, Hon. Cletus Avoka stated Government's intention to provide legal backing for the NPC. The NPC met with the President within the report period.

Through its National Network, WANEP is developing an Early warning system in Ghana in collaboration with local government agencies. There is active collaboration with security agencies in the design and development of the Early Warning System.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Information and in collaboration with UNDP, WANEP facilitated a 2-day workshop for senior editors of the main media houses in Ghana. The objective was to share experiences and build capacity on conflict sensitive reporting for Ghana to achieve the MDGs. The monitoring team to track media reporting on news and features that highlight Ghana's progress towards achieving the MDGs has been set up.

WANEP is a member of the Civic Forum Initiative. The work of the Civic Forum continued with an appraisal of the efforts in 2008 for free, transparent and peaceful elections. The Electoral Commission wrote officially to thank CSO in the Civic Forum for their hard work and contribution towards peaceful elections. The public appreciation of CSOs contribution to peaceful elections in 2008 was evident during the period under review.

3.1 RAO PERCEPTION OF THE GENERAL POLICY MAKING ENVIRONMENT IN GHANA

While about 50% of grantees continued to describe the policy making environment as tolerant, transparent, participatory and peaceful the rest are not too confident of the policy making space as a result of the change in the political governance of the country. It is important to note that the ruling government sets the field of play for policy making.

NETRIGHT is of the opinion that the policy making environment has not changed in spite of the change of government,. It is however important to note that the policy making environment has both opportunities and challenges for RAOs' engagement with policy and for successful policy advocacy. The opportunities include the general acceptance by government and its apparatus of the importance of engaging RAOs in policy discussions. Donors also recognise this and have supported RAOs with resources to enable them to engage. The challenges are that there are no clear ground rules for policy engagement and governments can take or leave what agreements are arrived at during consultations. RAOs are often not given adequate time to read policy documents and make meaningful inputs because of tight programme time-tables. Often, fundamental questions of policy are not up for discussion because of prior agreements between governments and donors. This does not reinforce the need for governments to account first and foremost to the people of Ghana. As well, the sheer workload of policy formulation and implementation and the range of government agencies involved makes policy advocacy complicated and time consuming and many civil society organisations do not have the financial and human resources to properly monitor key government policies.

ABANTU believes that the general policy making environment continues to recognise the value of RAOs' contributions. However during the period, it has become clear that civil society must be alert at all times so that irrespective of the change in the governance of the country, RAOs' influence can be felt. For example, RAOs have not been able to utilise its contributions to the development of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) under the 3rd High level Forum in Accra held in September 2008, to leverage its relationship with the government to influence its economic policy-making initiatives. The fact that the new government has negotiated for a loan agreement with the World Bank and the IMF without utilising the opportunities made available with the AAA framework points to a huge gap in civil society / RAOs' engagement capabilities and influence. This point to the need for RAOs to be more proactive on policy issues to ensure its credibility and relevance in the public space.

The ARK foundation is however of the opinion that Civil society participates in decision-making at a very elementary level. This is not enough for a democratic system of government. The ideal situation is one in which CSOs are involved in identifying what the needs of the people are, setting the agenda in establishing policy objectives, adopting the policy and subsequently monitoring and evaluating the policy, but it is not being done adequately. Most often the extent of involvement of CSO's is always such that CSO's can only rubberstamp what has already been decided by government. Again, where interaction between CSOs and government may occur, these fail to translate into policy.

FIDA reports that in spite of civil society's role in the provision of knowledge relevant to policy and provision of venues in which stakeholders and other important actors can carry on the necessary deliberation, the political context maps onto policy making. Institutional pressures and vested

interests in particular affect government capacity to adequately respond swiftly to calls for policy reform.

Although, there is a recognition that policy development and implementation take some time, experience in Ghana shows that this process is particularly slowed down by bureaucrats who feel that they do not have the authority to take decisions. There is a focus on their limitations instead of the scope of their authority. This attitude impacts on the length of time involved in the implementation processes that are required to move the policy issue from one official to the other, which civil society may have identified as being important in improving the lives of people.

While independent financial support from donors to Civil society groups to conduct research and present information about 'best practices' or the way in which similar problems have been addressed in other places provide independence and leverage to civil society, this is often misconstrued by public officials as undue interference in the governance system by donor countries.

Notwithstanding, there are still opportunities for engagement with relevant state and non state actors in fashioning out policies or making relevant amendments where necessary. This has largely been so, as a result of the improvement in the political context.

SEND Foundation for West Africa is of the opinion that increasingly the process of policy formulation in Ghana is becoming an all inclusive development exercise with the participation of civil society. The result is that the intent and purpose of policies tend to embrace a broader spectrum of Ghana's aspiration aimed at attaining middle income status by 2015. The GPRS 1&2 are examples. The emerging culture, whereby the views of civil society are taken on board in policy formulation, has been necessitated by Ghana's burgeoning democratic culture. The major challenge, however, is the lack of continuity in programme/policy formulation as brought about by a change of government. Also Ghana's policy direction is usually at the behest of the international development community, although, country ownership is being encouraged in line with the Paris Declaration. Lately citizens' demand for accountability and fair share in national resources is reorienting the direction of policy formulation in Ghana. However, one of the main challenges facing RAOs in the current policy environment is the poor access to information.

The peasant farmers association of Ghana is of the opinion that the general policy making environment in Ghana is very slow and lack political will. The policy environment is quite conducive in that there is enough tolerance for groups, organisations and even individuals to advocate for policy formulation and implementation. However, government lacks the will to either formulate or put a policy in place and if it does it's only on paper and not implemented to the full or not implemented at all. This may be due to several factors; our political economy is linked with others globally and therefore experience external influences. An example is world trade and agricultural policies such as tariff barriers, and subsidies. Locally, there are bottlenecks such as greedy and corrupt politician and other who divert monies meant for projects and other interventions for citizens of the country, just to mention a few.

IDEG is of the opinion that the general policy making environment has moved from an exclusively GoG process in the past to one which seeks to promote more stakeholder participation. While stakeholder participation has generally worked more at the level of policy implementation and M&E

processes, there has been less non-state participation in the national policy formulation process, save ad hoc consultations after certain policies have been decided. However, pressures from civil society and development partners seem to be opening up more possibilities for the policy making environment to be more democratic and people-centred.

IEA reported that the policy making environment in Ghana continues to be ad-hoc in nature. There is limited research influencing the policy environment and the lack of a National Development Plan continues to affect the policies in the country especially when there is a change in government as we have now. Nevertheless, the groundbreaking research projects carried out by RAOs such as The IEA continue to play an important role in mitigating the effects of these loopholes on the national scene

In the view of the LRC, the general policy making environment in Ghana is still very much in its formative stages and has not changed since the submission of the first report to G-RAP. Fundamental flaws are often apparent in many of the policies that are made with the result that more often than not the policies do not achieve what they are intended to. It is clear that at least with regard to the passage of Bills, not a thorough enough approach to policy making is taken. Not enough consultation is undertaken as a basis for the drafting of Bills; hardly any civic input is permitted or invited into Bills particularly financial Bills, rarely any substantive amendments are made to Bills of such immense importance. Suffice it to say there still needs to be a drastic improvement in the policy making environment of the legislature.

While CEPIL on the other hand reports that there seem to be a generally conducive policy making environment in Ghana in the advent of our constitutional dispensation. This is evidenced by the fact that governments are now more receptive to formulating policies that will ensure to the benefit of the society as a whole and poor and marginalised in particular. This cordial policy environment has witnessed RAOs influencing policy change and direction in many sectors of the country.

4.1 RAO ENGAGEMENT ON NATIONAL PRO-POOR POLICIES

A classification of G-rap grantees by core thematic areas of engagement presents a quick overview of the core policy issues these organisations engage in. Five broad thematic areas were determined from RAO programming activities: Governance; Gender; Anti corruption; Human rights; Development

G-rap grantees continue to engage in a wide variety of national policy issues, contributing immensely to the national pro-poor agenda. Unlike in the recent past where the policy engagement started only as an after thought, more to satisfy donor requirements, the last two semesters indicate a shift to a proactive effort of some RAOs towards policy change and reviews through their work. The Domestic Violence Act, the Disability Act and the current Transition Bill are examples of policy changes spearheaded by RAOs.

Governance

IDEG, the IEA and CDD display some convergence in their programming for the period under review. They all worked to promote peaceful elections and political transition to the NDC administration. The IEA can be cited for the Presidential candidate debates and the proposed Transition Bill, while CDD and IDEG contributed immensely to election observation and candidates' debates respectively.

The IEA's study on the impact of the global food crisis on the poor in Ghana greatly influenced the government's policy to increase subsidy on selected agriculture inputs and fuel products to dampen the effects of the crises on Ghanaians. The institute also looked at access to medicines for the poor and a review of the 2007 economy.

In its work to promote good governance IDEG worked on the role of traditional authorities in governance and development. It also continued its work on the Governance Issues Forum, focusing on improving the interaction between elected officials and their constituencies.

	Identified Policy Issue	Research activities in relation to the identified policy area	Identified policy gaps from research conducted	Position on identified policy issue	Proposed policy alternatives
IEA	Articulating and Mainstreaming Agricultural Trade Policies	Research on three major products is almost complete. The products which form the focus of the research study are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cocoa representing a traditional commodity, ✓ Rice representing an import commodity and ✓ Pineapple as a non-traditional export commodity Initial findings have been shared with stakeholders in the relevant sectors. Inputs from the stakeholders	No coordination between the two major Ministries working on the issue, i.e. the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Trade and Industry. There are major contradictions in the Ghana Trade Policy	The need for the relevant ministries to coordinate their activities to avoid duplication and agree on consensus on trade policies	Government to always adopt policies which are in the interest of the country to ensure that farmers are able to sell their products. Policies should suit the Ghanaian situation and not be dictated by Development Partners.
	Inclusive Democratic Dispensation through increase female participation in politics	The Women's Manual which was used as the reference document was produced out of extensive research and consultations	Lack of commitment to gender issues	The need to streamline gender in the development of policies	Government should implement the international laws and protocols on gender that the country has signed on to.
	Differential Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis	The detailed research paper that has been produced incorporates extensive consultations with stakeholders as well as a scientific analysis of the impacts of the Crisis	The impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Ghana has not been looked at holistically	Specific policies should be made to tackle the adverse effects of the crisis on especially the poor and most vulnerable in society	Poverty reduction programmes should be streamlined to target those who need them the most
	Assessing the Gaps between the Health Status of Rural and Urban Women in Ghana	The research was conducted using Maternity data at a Mission Hospital in the Kutenase district of the Ashanti	Rural women have poorer health status than urban women. Additionally, improvement in health is more likely to occur among urban women than among their rural counterparts	More health resources should be allocated to women in the rural areas to improve their health status. This would enable them to continue to contribute to the agricultural sector where they are predominantly found	Government through the Ministry of Health should improve the maternal health status of rural women by paying special attention to the incidence of haemorrhage
	Determinants of Technical Efficiency of Women Entrepreneurs in	The study was conducted to find out the level of technical efficiency of women food processors in Cape Coast	Improvement is needed in the provision of electricity, water and equipments for the women food processors since they affect	The significant determinants of technical efficiency found among the women food processors were:	Government should design policies to concentrate on the aforementioned

	the Food Processing Enterprises		the value of output.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The level of education ✓ Number of children ✓ Access to credit and ✓ Adoption of new and efficient technologies at the work place 	significant determinants of technical efficiency to alleviate poverty among women food processors
	Inclusive Democratic Dispensation through increase female participation in politics	The Women's Manual which was used as the reference document was produced out of extensive research and consultations	Lack of commitment to gender issues	The need to streamline gender in the development of policies	Government should implement the international laws and protocols on gender that the country has signed on to.
	Differential Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis	The detailed research paper that has been produced incorporates extensive consultations with stakeholders as well as a scientific analysis of the impacts of the Crisis	The impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Ghana has not been looked at holistically	Specific policies should be made to tackle the adverse effects of the crisis on especially the poor and most vulnerable in society	Poverty reduction programmes should be streamlined to target those who need them the most
IDEG	Governance Indicators	3-Country study with IDASA on the political economy of the production and use of governance indicators at a country-level in cooperation with government and local stakeholders – <i>An initial scoping mission in 1st half of 2009</i>	Issues of the extent to which government, civil society and other stakeholders in Ghana have used such indicators to assess governance performance and to what extent stakeholders found such indicators useful for measuring governance.	Given that Ghana has participated in the UNECA Governance Study and the APRM process, there should be evidence of how stakeholders have been able to use several international indicators and developed local ones to measure their performance	Specific case studies will be selected to illustrate current dynamics in Ghana and will seek to highlight various accountability mechanisms, where they exist, and to gain a better understanding of how these mechanisms can be strengthened
	Good governance	Traditional Authorities in Governance and Development (continued from 2008)	Issues of democracy in chieftaincy and extent to which it responds to the modern imperative of popular participation in decision-making & development planning	Chieftaincy should be brought into mainstream of constitutional democratic governance	Amendment of relevant policies and processes (e.g. Local Government Act, decentralisation policy), because only play advisory role—Entry points for advocacy are being examined
	Poverty reduction	DIIS research on poverty in Ghana—“Elites and the New Poverty Agenda” (continued from 2008)	MDGs, PRSPs, Aid Effectiveness constitute an agenda identified by both internal and external policy makers. --Weakness of public admin, which lacks resources; --High dependency on donors and int'l financial institutions; --Country ownership of development policies and what gets implemented is undermined	More policy input should be provided by relevant local stakeholders in identifying priorities and for promoting local ownership	Policy process alternative is to generate a more inclusive local, national and international consensus through national dialogue on how to transform Ghanaian economy

	Decentralisation process	GIF/GTF Baseline Study on Governance and Civic Participation at the District Level in public policy making, development planning and public accountability	--Perception of very little or no participation by citizens in policy making, development planning at the district level --Perception of adequate participation of citizens in the above processes by district official	--Disconnect between the assembly members and their constituents are blamed on the lack of a functional Unit Committee system which serves as a conduit between the citizens and the Assembly members. --Citizen's participation in the budget process has usually been limited to consultation in the fixing of rates.	-- Do further research into the perceived lack of cooperation between citizens and their duty bearers at the district level while probing the source of the disconnect. --Convene a stakeholder's conference that will bring together government officials, civil society, the private sector, and other state agencies to deliberate on the issues raised above, explore options and commit themselves to a collective plan of action.
CDD	Public resource leakage in education and its impact on development	Conducted pilot study tracking teacher absence in 30 primary schools in 3 districts in Ghana. Activities include data gathering, cleaning, analysis, report and dissemination of results to stakeholders. Phase ii of the project has just started which seeks to track the capitation grant to primary schools.	Preliminary indication from the pilot suggests that weak supervision is partly responsible for high incidence of teacher absence. Similarly, it was found that there is a strong correlation between the availability of public amenities like clinics, portable water and banks and low incidence of teacher absence. Additionally, schools with strong Parent-Teacher Associations record lower incidence of teacher absence	Ghana is poor country with very limited resources. Therefore the need for prudent management of public finances is critical for development. Any type of public resource leakage particularly involving education is a real problem and must be addressed. The research looked at just three districts out of 168 and therefore is just scratching the surface. A larger research sample would help policy makers to take more concrete step. But the current evidence alone requires action from the Ghana Education Service.	1. There is some indication that the current structure of the Long Distance Education requires revision. It should be rescheduled to begin on Saturday rather than Friday so reduce the high incidence of absenteeism on Friday. 2. The study stumbled upon some troubling issues with the capitation grants which require revision in other to ensure that the 30 Ghana cedis per child is not used by head teacher for other projects and to grant soft loans to teachers.

Anti-corruption

The two anti-corruption RAOs in the G-rap portfolio focused on transparency issues, with GACC and GII looking at political party financing and primary education financing respectively. GACC is calling for a review of the Political Parties Act, especially full disclosure of private contribution to political parties. GACC in collaboration with an auditing firm is also building the capacity of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament to strengthen their oversight of public accounts.

	Identified Policy Issue	Research activities in relation to the identified policy area	Identified policy gaps from research conducted	Position on identified policy issue	Proposed policy alternatives
GII	Corruption and leakages in primary education financing Weak governance in primary education management	National Validation workshop for Stake holders on the survey report Recommendations from the workshop are being analysed and where appropriate, will be integrated into the report.	Weak school governance system Poor record keeping Delays in the transfer of funds to schools Inadequate school infrastructure Acute shortage of teachers	Low participation of Key stakeholders in school management High potential for corruption and misuse of school funds Lack of access to school financial information	Strengthen the capacity of PTA's and SMC's in school management process Sensitise PTA, and SMC's on their roles and responsibilities Continuous training of school heads on financial management

					Prompt release of capitation grant to schools These will be achieved through engagement with policy makers
	Promoting democracy and good governance through public sensitizations activities as a tool for fighting corruption	Before and After workshop surveys	Low levels of awareness of negative effects of corruption Ignorance on how to respond to conflict of interest and corruption situations	Corruption perceived as high in Ghana Governments needs to put in more effort and citizens need to demand transparency and accountability from public office holders	Continue to build capacity of citizens to respond appropriately to corruption Strengthen the anti-corruption institutions to be more efficient Re-introduce civic education in school curriculum Enforce anti-corruption laws and sanctions
	Improve transparency and accountability in service delivery (TISDA)focus on the Water Sector	Case Study - Water Supply in Madina – Accra (This case study was designed to test and refine the case study approach being considered for the TISDA project Ghana’s Water Sector Diagnosis Study	AVRL managed system: (Annual reports not publicized) Water Tanker Association (WTA) managed system: (Lack of information to users and participation of users in decision making)	Transparency and accountability as well as performance issues positive with AVRL but negative in WTA hence there is room for improvement	Use of appropriate IEC materials to make information available to users Technical efficiency: installing production meters, regular rehabilitation and maintenance of systems thus leading improved water delivery. Better regulation (licensing) for KIAR water tankers and local water vendors; and this may include licensing arrangements
GACC	Effective and strong institutions for the implementation of anti-corruption laws	Developed Corruption Monitoring Indicators based on building a national integrity system. Have contacted a number of Public institutions to test the verification and applicability of the indicators developed	Public Officer Holders (Assets Declaration and Disqualification) Act 1998, Act 550,Procurement Act have been passed but there are implementation difficulties. Further research is on-going	Need to advocate for strengthening of public institutions for effective implementation. On going	The organisation position will depend on final outcome of research
	CSO and CBO’s focus on anti-corruption campaign in the districts	Embarked on an assessment to identify the appropriate local communities to undertake the skill development.	Much advocacy for transparency and accountability are done at the national level with minimal work at the districts.	Lack of a decentralized anti-corruption campaign	Increase in Public Education on anti-corruption at the decentralised level
	Effective Implementation of Whistle blower Act	Collated the number of reported cases to institutions Held a dialogue with implementing agencies to	Lack of knowledge of the Act Some provisions in the act tend to disclose	Government needs to show its commitment to the fight against corruption by ensuring that the right institutions are put in place	The bill needs to be reviewed. Strengthen anti-corruption institutions

2006	assess their processes of implementing the law. Roundtable workshop to review the whistleblower amendment bill	the identity of the Whistleblower Number of institutions involved in implementation are too many Most institutions have not put in place measures to ensure the receipt of complaints under the act	and resourced to implement the law	Civil society should be resourced to improve on public education on law. GACC has written for a proposal on developing an advocacy strategy and citizens guide to blow the whistle
Bribery & Corruption in the nomination and election of District Chief Executive	Monitored & collated media reportage on acts of alleged bribery & corruption during the recent election of District Chief Executive	Political corruption is rife at the districts. Very difficult to ascertain the truth as both the giver and receiver are in agreement to corrupt the system	Need to explore more transparent and accountable way of appointing the District Chief Executive	An issues paper on the Election or Nomination of the District Chief Executive Option for the Promotion of an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable District Governance system. The paper will be used for regional policy dialogues to critically assess the options and used it as an advocacy tool to influence policy change
Oversight Responsibility of Public Accounts Committee	Conducted a analysis on the number of Public accounts that have not been reviewed by the last Public accounts Committee and carried over to the new committee	Members do not have the needed logistics to undertake the review for instance research assistants to assist them undertake their duties. Most members with no financial background need empowerment.	Parliamentarians are overstretched. Lack of research assistants Lack of offices for parliamentarians to allow committees to work effectively	Strengthen the capacity of Committees of Parliament.
Investigative journalism and independent media in the fight against corruption	Data Collection of Articles started in February and it's ongoing. Coding of the Data gathering is underway.	Limited capacity of journalist to undertake investigative journalism, independence of the media is compromised, politicise major national issues	Full report after content analysis	To collaborate with GJA, National Media Commission to build the capacity of journalist on investigative reporting
Political parties Accountability to the Electoral commission	Review the reporting processes of political parties finance. Collated statistics on money spent by Political parties on adverts in the last election	Some of the parties do not file their accounts at the EC. There are inconsistencies and accuracies. Difficult to understand the statement of account due to different format for reporting	Full assessment will be known after Political Parties have filed their accounts indicating expenditures from the last elections	Review of the Political Party Act 574 and a uniform format for the financial report of the various parties.

Human Rights

The active human rights RAOs are CEPIL, LRC, and MFWA. The diversity of issues worked on by this group are as varied as the number of pressing human rights issued identified during the period. CEPIL worked on right to land rights, the effects of oil and gas exploration on coastal communities, housing issues and the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. LRC focused on gender equity in public office holding. MFWA focused on the defamation law.

Identified Policy Issue	Research activities in relation to the identified policy area	Identified policy gaps from research conducted	Position on identified policy issue	Proposed policy alternatives
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CEPIL	Alternative Dispute Resolution	Research in Bill on Alternative Dispute Resolution	Alternative Dispute Resolution Centers not nationwide. None involvement of traditional leaders	Inadequate structures for the operation of ADR process	Incorporation of traditional systems of justice delivery to the ADR process.
	Housing	The right to housing	No express provision on the right to housing in the Constitution of Ghana	There is the need for the development of a comprehensive housing policy. The need for an express provision on the right to housing in the Constitution very eminent	Government support for improvement of local materials in housing delivery.
	Impact of oil and gas exploration on coastal communities	Scoping study to establish the implications of oil and gas exploration in the coastal communities.	Inadequate community education on the impact of the oil and gas exploration in the coastal communities	There is the need for paralegal training on oil and gas human rights in the communities.	Government and the oil companies' effective education on the EIA results.
	Land Rights	Conducting research on land rights in Ghana	Taking community lands for the utilization of natural resources without the payment of compensation		Payment of compensation for all lands required for the utilization of mineral resources.
LRC	Gender equity and representation on public boards and enforcement of constitutional provisions	Desk and electronic review	Patterns of socialization Lack of political will	Patterns of socialization constrain female political representation. These patterns of socialization have broad implications for women's access to education, land and money. This makes it extremely difficult for them to access the political realm Lack of political will; constitutional provisions are vague and government has been slow to respond.	Increased access to education, and gender sensitization. Specific constitutional quotas; political parties need to take an active role in the recruitment of women including providing financial support
	Comparative analysis of human rights redress and access to justice: How poor procedures create backlogs and crowded dockets for human rights courts. As a result, governmental attempts at realizing their objectives for meting out corrective measures are hindered by inefficiency. In turn such inefficiencies siphon off support and belief in justice process and the judicial work of human rights courts.	Web research, relevant case law of Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights.	Policy gaps exist between governments' promises to uphold their adoption of various human rights declarations and their inability or lack of interest in realizing their obligation(s) in a timely and efficient manner so as to uphold human dignity.	The policy gap that exists can be closed through creative legislative measures as well as better defining the role of NGOs as representative agencies of victims of human rights violations.	Looking to EU member countries, namely Italy, the "Pinto Act" of 2001 which created a mechanism by which lengthy human rights proceedings could be expedited to provide timely judicial decisions in human rights cases should be closely studied. Moreover, the popular use of "Ombudsmen" - independent legal actors whose assistance can be requested before or during the actual trial commencement - could prove useful in Ghana. Perhaps the concept of the Ombudsmen could be modified to mirror or redefine the manner in which NGOs can participate in human rights proceedings.

	Gender and equity in governance	Internet research	No way of ensuring that what is on paper (the 1992 Constitution & Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is enforced and no plan on building upon what is on paper.	A lot of work needs to be done to ensure gender and equity in governance.	Challenge stereotypes, education, help of NGOs, push for more women in local governance, form a commission or some other body whose job is to address this and other gender-related issues.
MFWA	Legislation on speech - A proposed defamation law for Ghana – Defamation Bill, 2006 for consideration by Cabinet and presentation before parliament for debate and possible passage without public debate or civil society input into such a critical piece of legislation.	MFWA commissioned a research and published a critical review of the draft bill. The research took the form of reviewing existing legislation in Africa, international best practices, comparative law and other principles on freedom of expression.	The research identified the following defects in the bill: The provisions are poorly formulated and therefore are very restrictive The Bill does not take into account the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression and of the media It was not drafted in active consultation with all key stakeholders and the general public.	Ghana needs a defamation law that is more expansive in its protection of the right to free expression and media.	Whatever defamation legislation that Parliament may eventually enact should be in conformity with the provisions of the constitution on freedom of expression and of the media.

Gender and Women's Rights

The gender and women's rights organisation engaged in a wide range of issues affecting women. Nearly all of the organisations worked on women and governance and affirmative action, and others worked on domestic violence and monitored the implementation of the DV Act. In addition to the above, WiLDAF worked on land issues as it affects women, ABANTU on women and conflict, while GSDRC and ARK addressed HIV aids issues. NETRIGHT focused on the oil find and on the mental health bill

	Identified Policy Issue	Research activities in relation to the identified policy area	Identified policy gaps from research conducted	Position on identified policy issue	Proposed policy alternatives
WiLDAF	Affirmative Action	Position paper developed	Non-existent policy in Ghana on using quota system despite 40% target for women's representation in political positions in the NDC Manifesto	Ghana's commitment to working with a quota system as contained in international treaties ratified – e.g. CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, African Protocol on Women's Rights, AU Constitutive Act, ECOWAS Protocol on Good Governance	Ghana to begin consultations on this policy and to work towards adopting a proportional representational system to increase number of women in political positions.
	Accountability on NDC promise of 40% representation of women in political positions	NDC Manifesto and statements of commitment made at the Women's Dialogue with	Actions of Government – appointments of ministers, district chief executives and boards do not meet the 40% target	Action by government to adhere to 40% target should be reflected in the immediate appointments and nominations for political positions during first year of government	Sustained advocacy to hold government accountable. Establish committee to discuss affirmative action policy to address gap.
	Property Rights of Spouses Bill	Position paper/brief on the Bill (based on previous consultations held among CSOs, MOWAC and Attorney General)	Bill has new areas that require further expatiation based on experiences in other jurisdictions. E.g. Pre-nuptial agreements;	Critical for parliamentarians to understand the international frameworks and ideas underpinning the bills, examples from other	No alternatives per se are proposed. However like advocacy for the Domestic Violence Act, it is important to drum up advocacy for support for

			Recognition of Cohabitation; distribution of property in polygamous marriages	jurisdictions to foster debate in the House.	the Property Rights Bill.
	Women and Politics	Concerns of women across the country collected during the election period. (800 women interviewed); Commitments to women and gender made at Women's Dialogue on 6.11.08 by 5 political parties.	Concerns identified by women require redress at the national, regional and district levels. For instance the women of Akatsi District complained that the district assembly does not consult them on development issues in the district. Though there are some programmes in place by the government of Ghana such as micro-credit schemes, there are others that have not been put in place. E.g. women's involvement in local assembly procedures	Concerns raised by the women should be fragmented and presented to national government, and then to regional and district assemblies for inclusion in development plans.	Because these are concerns raised by , it is important for these to be included in policies by national and district level government. WILDAF supports the initiative of NETRIGHT which submitted a position paper on needs of women to MOWAC.
	Women and Land	Research on women's access to land in Ga West and Ga East.	Though women in Ghana do not have problems accessing land in their communities, the major problem is with securing title to the land which is affected by many factors including economic, social, cultural etc.	Women's access to land should cover securing title and inheritance rights being respected.	At the traditional level, systems and structures should enable women to have access and control over land. Such systems should support women's security of title. At the national level, empowerment initiatives to get more women to register land; use research findings to support Property Rights of spouses Bill.
ABANTU	Promoting Women in Governance	➤ Research on Affirmative Action	➤ Inadequate representation of women in politics and decision-making in West Africa region due to the lack of use of quotas ➤ Continued discriminatory practices against women in leadership	➤ Need for continued policy engagement on the issue of affirmative action ➤ Specific measures needed to support women in leadership to enhance representation.	➤ the promotion of women's rights in governance through affirmative action ➤ Engaging with critical actors for an affirmative action law Preparatory processes are now being undertaken. The consultations with our coalition members are now only starting. ➤ Utilise the Women's Manifesto Coalition as a support base for women. Background papers on Affirmative Action have also been prepared to provide the knowledge base for the consultations and advocacy.
	Insufficient attention paid to the gendered nature of conflict	Women, conflict and militarization in West Africa	Integration mechanisms in the sub-region do not sufficiently address women's specific concerns	Research is still ongoing	Research is still ongoing
	Negative portrayal of women in the media	Review of media representation of women	Limited coverage of issues of concern to women as well as negative language and comments used	National media Commission and Ghana Journalist Association need active engagement on the need to engender media	➤ Gender responsive media policies ➤ Continuous engagement and alliance building between women's groups and ABANTU

				policies	
	Gender and Climate Change	Key issue of Gender and Climate Change	Limited integration of gender and climate change	Deepen work in the area	Deepen work first before preparing alternatives
	Sex Disaggregated Data	Sex Disaggregated Data	Huge disparities exists against women's employment	Deepen the work in this area	Deepen the work in this area
ARK	The State's preparedness to implement the DV Act.	<p>Research was conducted in Greater Accra, Ashanti and Northern Regions.</p> <p>Research activities included:</p> <p>Monitor through observation and guided interviews the handling of complaints by DOVVSU, DSW, Courts & Health Institutions in terms of promptness, expressions of prejudice or disrespect, thoroughness in recording details and general level of cooperation with complaints.</p> <p>Monitor hospital handling of persons seeking medical services in relation to violence in terms of proper and adequate treatment of injuries and trauma, medico-legal examinations, fulfilment of reporting obligations as well as general behaviour towards victims and those accompanying them.</p> <p>Monitor the administration of trials of cases of VAW/DV</p> <p>Monitor inter-agency work, referrals and cooperation between these agencies.</p> <p>Analyze and compile findings for use of engagements with relevant authorities to mobilize prompt and proper action.</p>	<p>Identified gaps include:</p> <p>All the four institutions lack adequate logistics to respond effectively to VAW/DV cases.</p> <p>Officials of DSW, Courts, Health Institutions and DOVVSU have little idea of the contents of the Act.</p> <p>Poor referral system among these institutions.</p> <p>There is little and in most cases no interpretation of court processes to victims.</p>	<p>The Ark believes that the Domestic Violence Act must be implemented smoothly and become a working document recognized by all. Therefore, it is necessary to monitor the state's preparedness to implement the Act. This will ensure that any gaps are identified and addressed for its smooth implementation.</p>	<p>NAP intends to engage the leadership of the monitored institutions, DV Act Secretariat at the Department of Women, MOWAC and other key stakeholders to put in place the necessary mechanisms for the smooth and effective implementation of the Act.</p>
	Churches response to Domestic violence.	The Ark uses the outcomes of its community work: durbars, street campaigns, market outreaches, community campaigns as research activities.	The policy gaps identified was the lack of laid down structures in the churches for handling cases on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women.	The Ark's position is to see all churches in Ghana guided by some guidelines to handle issues on DV/VAW. Based on the background that Pastors have much more influence on Ghanaian populace, The Ark hopes to reduce the incidents, causes and effects of DV through the churches in Ghana.	The Ark hopes to present the set of guidelines drafted by the sample of churches to Church Councils in Ghana to be adopted.

	Capacity building on Women's Leadership	The Ark falls on its data for responding to Survivors' of Gender based violence and its track on social issues to develop training modules for training young women leaders from civil society organizations, tertiary institutions and various women groups.	Policy gaps <u>identified</u> : inadequate knowledge on Leadership skills, Lack of motivation to engage in politics, Lack of knowledge on Advocacy on Social issues.	To bring on board new actors trained to advocate and lobby for the promotion and protection of women's human rights.	The phase of the Women's leadership training is envisaged to change. The change would be geared towards training modules focused at encouraging women to participate actively in politics to push for the needed gender equality impact for women.
	Women's Rights Organizations strategy building	In our experience with donor agencies and various discussions at network meetings it has become evident that there is donor fatigue.	Women's Rights Organisations (WRO's) do not have funding enough to cover its overhead costs.	The Ark in collaboration with WRO's are considering the setting up of a secretariat/a fund to engage in income generating activities	The Ark together with WROs will engage in a lot of consultations with organisations like the African Women Development Fund to see how best to set up the fund /secretariat to support services delivery to clients.
	The link between HIV/AIDS and VAW amongst women collectives and tertiary students.	The Ark in collaboration with CEGENSA is undertaking a research in the form of structured questionnaires and focus group discussions to identify the link between HIV/AIDS and Violence Against Women amongst tertiary students and some selected communities in the Eastern Region	Consistent reports of sexual abuse among female students in tertiary institutions in the absence of adequate response systems for VAW and HIV/AIDS.	To build the capacity of stakeholders to develop efficient responding mechanisms for survivor's of Gender- based violence and HIV/AIDS as the link is established	Findings on research will be submitted to the relevant authorities to draft policies to address the issues.
GSHRDC	Addressing the gender aspects of HIV & AIDs	Undertook a nation-wide study on gender norms and women's susceptibility to HIV/AIDs infection in Ghana. The Government of Ghana and many NGOs have adopted the "ABC" approach (abstinence, being faithful and condom use) to HIV & AIDs programming. This approach is widely accepted as simplistic in relation to understanding the issues of gender inequality and women's rights and does address the root cause of the HIV infection among women.	HIV/AIDs policies and programmes in Ghana adopt gender neutral framework which fails to tackle gender inequality due to patriarchal attitudes.	The Gender Centre's position on this issue is that the gender dimension of HIV & AIDs in the country is due to patriarchal attitudes which make women more vulnerable and susceptible to infection. Until this underlining cause is addressed, infection among women will continue to rise.	We are advocating that gender is mainstreamed into the National HIV/AIDS Policy and the National Strategic Framework III (2011 – 2015) by the Ghana AIDS Commission. The current version of these policy documents are due for review in 2010. We are also expecting that such a policy change will lead to a situation where GAC will agree to gender criteria for grant applicants. Subsequently, this will bring about an increased number of proposals incorporating women's rights issues funded by GAC The Centre will network with existing organizations/coalitions to advocate for engendered HIV/AIDS policies and programmes by the Ghana Aids Commission to ensure that gender sensitive projects that address women's

					rights and needs feature prominently in projects supported. The Centre has already done an environmental scan of existing NGOs/coalitions to work with it on this policy work.
	Knowledge of HIV transmission, condom usage and attitudes towards gender, HIV and AIDS	Baseline survey on levels of knowledge of HIV transmission, condom usage and attitudes towards gender, HIV and AIDS in 3 communities	Data is being analysed	Data is being analysed	Data is being analysed. It hoped that the findings will be used to support our advocacy work with stakeholders.
NETRIGHT	Oil and Gas	Literature and policy reviews and baseline study	Review and baseline study ongoing	NETRIGHT will issue a position paper after the study	This will be addressed in the position paper that be issued after the study
	Women's Mental Health	Presentations on women's rights and mental health	current mental health law NRC 30 of 1972 does not protect women from human rights issues women's access to social protection	Passage of the Mental Health Bill into law Increase women's access to social protection programmes Institution of special social protection programmes for women.	Lobbying advocacy for the passage of the mental health bill and the institution of social protection programmes that addresses the needs of women
	Financial, Food and Fuel Crises	Consultations on the impact of the crises on women	Lack of political will by the government to honour its own commitments to the promotion of women's rights and gender equality No consideration for the differential gender impacts of the crises General policy reform context gap between poverty reduction and real practises.	New aid modalities have failed to respond to commitments to gender equality. The government should abandon neo liberal policies and develop policies that address imbalances and social and gender inequalities In spite of poverty reduction programmes , majority of female headed households are below the poverty line	Policies are urgently needed to strengthen agriculture, a sector that had been contributing almost 40% of the GDP Reforming the financial system cannot be a neutral technical process, there must be a broader participation and consultation of all stakeholders (the citizens of the country have a key role to play in our development)

Development Organisations

Among the organisation labelled as development oriented, each engaged on a different developmental issue. SEND Foundation reported working on the participatory monitoring of the School Feeding Programme, ISODEC on public expenditure accountability while TWN worked on the EPAs.

	Identified Policy Issue	Research activities in relation to the identified policy area	Identified policy gaps from research conducted	Position on identified policy issue	Proposed policy alternatives
SEND	GSFP	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E)	Weak institutional collaboration among government ministries, departments and agencies expected to support the GSFP. This has affected the provision of services necessary to achieve the objectives of the GSFP	There is the need to strengthen collaboration between the GSFP, MMDAs, collaborative ministries and other non-state stakeholders.	<p>Effective involvement of key stakeholders in the development of annual plans and related strategies of the GSFP.</p> <p>Redefine the roles of stakeholders especially MOFA in relation to the sourcing of locally produced food for the GSFP.</p> <p>MMDAs and collaborative decentralised directorates should prioritise GSFP schools as model schools in the various districts for the provision of necessary services.</p>
ISODEC	Public Expenditure Accountability and transparency	Examining the expenditure allocation to Education, Health and water sectors	<p>Budget allocation to these sectors are not meeting their needs</p> <p>Non involvement of critical stakeholders in expenditure decision making</p> <p>Lack of stewardship</p>	Practice open budget process that involves all critical stakeholders at all levels	Sensitisation of critical stakeholders to assert their rights and holding government responsible at all levels
TWN	EPA	National Procurement Policy, Thresholds and Areas reserved for nationals	Absence of 'positive discrimination' and other institutionalised protection and/or advantages to domestic markets and producers	Unrestrained Import, Liberalisation; and, supremacy of International Competition gives systematic advantage to Foreign Firms and disadvantage to Local Firms. It is a threat to development of local production capacity, systems & Investment.	Radical Overhaul of Procurement Act; and Procurement Policies. Areas of exclusion and exclusive reserve for domestic/national economic actors; dedicated procurement plan for identified local commodities & local consumption; Supremacy of National advantage over International Competition in Procurement
	Compensation for mining affected communities	Livelihood, Compensation and royalties	<p>Inadequate consideration of livelihood concerns in mining policies</p> <p>Undervalued compensation</p> <p>Low royalty rates and mis-management of royalty payments</p>	<p>Increase in compensation rates necessary</p> <p>Transparency in royalty management</p>	<p>*compensation should consider all properties including heritage sites</p> <p>*Royalty rate should be fixed at 5%</p>
NGND	District Assemblies	Percentage of DACF allocations that actually	No ceiling on what amount of DACF	All allocation to MMDAs should be sent to	Parliament needs to put a ceiling of not

	Common Fund Allocation to MMDAs	reach MMDAs in northern Ghana	allocation can be spent on behalf of MMDAs at the national level	the MMDAs	more than 5% of each MMDA's allocation that can be spent on their behalf at the national level
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5.1 MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

G-Rap monitors the most significant changes in all grantee organisations. The changes reported includes most significant internal changes like movement of key staff or the acquisition of new funding as well as external engagements.

Human rights

CEPIL conducted a comprehensive scoping study of oil and gas impact on the human rights of communities along the western coast of Ghana. Outcome of this report set the basis for a paralegal training on oil and gas human rights.

CEPIL also won a landmark case it instituted against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minerals Commission and Bonte Goldmines (a liquidated mining company) for degrading the land at Bonteso without posting a bond as required under the laws of Ghana for the reclamation of the degraded environment. The court held the EPA, the Minerals Commission and the company jointly and severally liable to the people adversely affected by the harm and damaged caused to the environment and their properties. The court also held that CEPIL has the legal standing to institute such a case and commended the organization for pursuing the action.

The legal resources centre reports most significant changes on four fronts. The Board of Directors of the LRC within the period under review decided to hold a retreat with all members of staff to focus solely on strategic planning for the LRC. The Board decided to hold the session with the help of Organization Capacity Improvement Consultants (OCIC). This is the first time the Board decided to do this exercise with all members of staff participating. Some critical issues for the session included raising the operational budget of the LRC to four million United States Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) within the next three years with effect from January 2010; the recruitment of a gender expert to commence work with effect from September 2009; and the recruitment of a Fundraising and Proposal writing expert to commence work from January 2010.

Within the period under review, the LRC carried out three key researches on the themes: Gender Equity and Representation on Public Boards and Enforcement of Constitutional Provisions; Gender and Equity in Governance, A Comparative Study: Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Comparative Analysis of Human Rights Redress and Access to Justice. The research reports are in the process of editing and finalising for publication.

The capacity of staff to do research and advocacy as well as programme development has improved tremendously. Within the period under review, two staff who had been in the US studying for their LL.M.s returned. Ms. Dzifa Gakpleazi was awarded an LL.M. in International Human Rights from Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago. Mr. Rowland Atta-Kesson was awarded an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Indiana University School of Law. He also qualified as a Public Policy Mediator of the State of Indiana. Both staff were supported within the reporting period with G-RAP funds. They are back and have strengthened the programme development capacity of the LRC.

LRC in collaboration with FES published its maiden report of a seminar to discuss leadership of the Ghanaian Parliament. This publication entitled "Who is the leader of the House of the Parliament of Ghana" has been circulated widely in Parliament and to other stakeholders of the LRC.

Media Foundation for West Africa's proactive approach to influencing formulation of legislation was amply demonstrated in the work that was done on the Defamation Bill, 2006. The organisation identified the Bill,

retrieved a copy from the office of the Attorney General, commissioned a comprehensive review, published the review and launched it at a well-attended forum at which media, the executive, legislature, the judiciary and other key stakeholders were well represented. The launch was chaired by a Justice of the Supreme Court – His Lordship Justice W.A. Atuguba.

Subsequently, the published review was widely circulated following which the MFWA was contacted by the office of Attorney General to discuss possible revision along the lines recommended in the MFWA review. The MFWA has received a revised bill from the A-G's office and this is being studied.

Socio-Economic Development

The NGND alludes that the relations between it and all 20 participating MMDAs has increased significantly. Three Regional Coordinating Directors have shown great interest in the study of the flow of the DACF undertaken by NGND.

ISODEC indicated that they were able to catch the eye of the new government by restating its position on the water privatisation, EPA and the extractive industry. The organisation has also started the full implementation of its gender policy. As part of the implementation process, there have been series of internal staff interactive training to enhance their understanding of the gender concept in general and specifically the contents of the gender policy document. To ensure that every staff owns the process, the responsibilities of a Gender Desk Officer rotate among staff. This innovation has worked very well since its inception.

Send Foundation reports it's most significant success in two areas, the organization's publication and launch of three participatory monitoring and evaluation reports. These include: "Free Trade, Small Scale Production and Poverty"; "Ghana Civil Society MDG Monitoring Report"; and "Challenges of Institutional Collaboration: an assessment of the state of complementary services in the GSFP".

SEND also organised the second national policy dialogue on the GSFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD). The Ministers of Local Government and Rural Development, and Women and Children Affairs actively participated in the dialogue and committed themselves to working with civil society to address the challenges facing the GSFP to ensure its relevance and sustainability. The NEPAD secretariat of the AU also participated and openly acknowledged the value of the recent report card on the GSFP.

Gender Rights Organisations

WiLDAF reports two landmark achievements in the reporting period. Following promises made by the ruling government in its NDC Manifesto to give 40% of political positions to women, WiLDAF from the beginning of the year held press conferences, spoke on radio and television decrying appointments of District Chief Executives and boards which had few or no women. On 28th May, WiLDAF mobilised over 300 women to present a petition to H. E. President Mills to remind him of this campaign promise. About 5 days before the presentation, media picked on the issue that generated a rather partisan debate on the intent behind the petition. Whilst newspapers and radio stations including the Catalyst and Radio Gold labelled the petition as one inspired by the NPP, others including the Chronicle, Joy and Happy FM stations analyzed the issue objectively. The police service requested WiLDAF to call off the presentation with the excuse that the Greater Accra Regional Command needed enough time to mobilise police officers for protection of the marchers. WiLDAF agreed but requested to hold a press conference to announce the postponement. Yet on the day of the presentation, hundreds of police officers were seen in the metropolis and at Osu Presby Church Hall the

converging point for the women. The Castle was also ready to receive WiLDAF and the women. The petition was eventually presented by 4 representatives from WiLDAF and women who gathered at Osu Presby. A press conference was also held denouncing any partisanship behind this event.

Media attention and interest by other groups and individuals that was generated around this event has led to statements being made by politicians on accountability around campaign promises. The Minister for Eastern Region lamented appointment of 1 woman as a DCE in the Region. Further, the debate on representation of women has continued among the public including a recent workshop held by IEA for political parties to address the gender inequality gap within party hierarchies. As other organisations continue to work around an affirmative action policy (ABANTU & WiLDAF), women’s representation in political positions will be a topic that will not go away anytime soon, and WiLDAF is proud to have ‘upped’ public concern on this.

63 women and men in Ga East and Ga West Districts have been trained as community legal literacy educators. They have the mandate to create awareness on ‘family’ laws to rural communities in the districts, assist victims of domestic violence through mediation in minor cases such as non-maintenance of children and referrals to state agencies like Social Welfare or DOVVSU; they are also to encourage women to secure titles to land in the districts through community structures.

Related to women’s access to justice, two community reconciliation committees have been inaugurated in Keta and Adaklu Anyigbe Districts in the Volta Region. These committees are to mediate or negotiate on cases on family matters e.g. non-maintenance of children, marital problems, issues related to intestacy and to create awareness on family laws. They have been given skills on alternate dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR) and community mobilisation. In Western Region, 22 persons in the Shama District received ADR training to perform the same tasks as those in Volta Region.

Ark under its NAP under the National Advocacy Partnership (NAP) Project monitored the preparedness and actual implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and related legislation by the Courts, the Ghana Police Service, Department of Social Welfare and the Ghana Health Service. During the second phase of monitoring, Policy briefs will be produced for the attention of Government and the results of the monitoring will be shared with all relevant institutions and civil society stakeholders.

The Ark Foundation also received an award from the Embassy of the United States of America in Accra. The Award which is the second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. award for peace and social justice was presented to The Executive Director of Ark for her tireless efforts to promote peace and social Justice in Ghana.

The Gender Centre finalized its research on gender norms that make women susceptible to HIV/AIDs infection in Ghana. This research report is currently being edited for publication. A proposal has been developed from the study to implement programmes to address some of the key findings. The Gender Centre also developed a guide to developing community response to violence against women in Ghana.

The Gender Centre has developed new programmes in its attempt to diversify its funding base and become sustainable. Overall, one of four proposals has received favourable response.

	Proposal	Funder	Status
1	Addressing the Gender Related Aspect of HIV and Aids in Ghana	Ghana Aids Commission	Successful

2	Combating, Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women in Ghana	U. N. Trust Fund	Not successful
3	Combating, Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women in Ghana	Womankind Worldwide -UK	Waiting for response
4	Reducing women's vulnerability to being infected with HIV	Ghana Aids Commission	Not successful

A new 3-year project which was developed to implement programmes to address some of the key findings of the above-published research has started with funding from DFID – UK through WOMANKIND Worldwide. As part of this project is a public education and policy work on violence against women and HIV/AIDS. The project titled “Reducing Women’s Susceptibility to HIV infection due to Gender Inequality in Ghana” is being implemented in partnership with 3 other national/local NGOs namely, ProLink Organization, Rural Watch – Ghana and Amasachina Self Help Association with the Gender Centre as the coordinating agency.

The Gender Centre entered into a partnership with Pro-Link Organization to bid for a one-year project from the Ghana Aids Commission and was successful. The project aims at protecting women and girls from HIV infection in Ghana. It started during the period under review and is being implemented in 6 districts in the Greater Accra, Ashanti and Eastern regions. Once again, the research findings were used in designing this project.

The Gender Centre also improved its communications. Its website was once again redesigned and up-graded in the last six months to include new information.

On the OD front, the Centre developed a 5-year strategic plan (2010 - 2014). This is the second major review of the Centre’s strategic plan since its establishment. As part of this work, a team of consultants was engaged to conduct a skills audit on the organization and propose an organisational restructuring; and the Centre is putting in place plans to recruit suitable persons to fill identified vacant positions.

The Network for Women’s Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) continues to hold its membership meetings, public fora and outreach programmes to discuss how to move the network forward and debate topical issues of concern to women. In addition, NETRIGHT provides support and information to members and organisations/individuals that request for such support/information. The Secretariat is in constant touch with its members, partners and other civil society organisations through the internet, telephone, ordinary mail and regular interaction. Through these processes, the Secretariat has been able to reach out to other NGOs in the regions and interact with some organisations outside Ghana. NETRIGHT focuses on three (3) core areas namely movement building, economic justice and land rights.

To strengthen its own capacity as a network and raise the knowledge base of staff, NETRIGHT has always been directed by the belief that information sharing and regular meetings among its members, and partnerships, collaboration and networking with other organisations are the most effective ways to maximise resources and achieve results.

During the period under review the Steering Committee had three (3) meetings in February, April and June 2009. Apart from these meetings, there have been several online discussions to enable the SC reach

agreements on issues that need immediate attention. The Convenor also sends regular updates to SC members to enable them to be abreast with NETRIGHT's activities.

Focal point meetings are organised to give NETRIGHT and its constituencies a view of the relevance of their relationship, challenges and what is needed to be done differently to ensure a cordial working relationship between NETRIGHT and its focal points. In addition, the meeting also informs Steering Committee (SC) decisions about the relationships with focal points/persons.

The April meeting was used to discuss NETRIGHT's Gender, Oil and Gas project and how to develop working relationships and establish modalities for collaboration and consultation with other organisations and networks in the regions working on or interested in gender, oil and gas issues. The meeting also raised critical issues of concern to women with regard to the 'oil find'.

The discovery of oil in significant quantities at Cape Three Points in the Western Region of Ghana and the prospects of Ghana becoming an oil and gas producing country has brought in its wake mixed feelings of both hope and fear; hope because it can lead to rapid economic growth and fear because large inflows could lead to conflict arising out of greed, corruption and struggle over ownership. NETRIGHT is interested in contributing to discussions and decisions on oil and gas issues from a perspective which promotes women's rights and gender justice. In view of this NETRIGHT with funding support from G-RAP has engaged the services of three Consultants to undertake (1) baseline study, (2) policy review and (3) literature review as part of activities under its Gender, Oil and Gas Project. NETRIGHT has signed separate contracts with the Consultants to begin the study and the two reviews.

NETRIGHT is the Convenor of Social Watch Ghana and continues to lead the writing of the Social Watch Ghana Report. This year's report focused on the global financial crisis and its implications. In addition, NETRIGHT will host the Social Watch General Assembly in October, 2009. Social Watch is an international NGO network monitoring poverty eradication and gender equality.

Notable achievements of FIDA include the mobilisation of women to claim and defend their rights is essential in order to address these challenges and press for reforms, for the implementation of human rights and national legal instruments. This requires the capacity building of women in terms of literacy, legal knowledge and political participation.

These activities carried out in all FIDA target areas in the five regions of the country is resulting in a shift in attitude and behaviour of community members towards women's rights. Women themselves are becoming outspoken, confident and vigilant thereby serving as a disincentive to abuse.

It is commonly noted that there is reluctance, particularly among the poor, to become entangled with the courts and/or its associate elements. This is sometimes attributed to the strong social stigma attached to any encounter with the law, no matter how innocent the one accessing it is. FIDA has been able to secure funds for two of its offices in the Northern region as well as the Accra and Kumasi offices where poor women can be supported financially to access the courts. During the period under review a total number of **six** cases have been sent to court.

Some significant case stories have involved HIV/Aids infected women. The dismissal of an HIV/AIDS female patient who worked in a hospital came to FIDA's attention. The client went to SSNIT to collect her benefits to enable her purchase some drugs. Officials of SSNIT requested a letter from her former employer to explain the reason for claiming her benefits. As the client explained her situation she was referred to FIDA for assistance.

This case was successfully mediated upon. The client was not interested in re-instatement; however, her employer compensated the client for wrongful dismissal. In one current case, the client was forced to leave her marital home when her husband discovered she was HIV-positive. Because the husband refused to honour the invitation to FIDA to participate in mediation, the case was sent to court. FIDA is providing the client with legal representation and the case is currently pending. These cases are of exceptional interest as FIDA is currently engaged in advocating for the legal rights of women infected and affected by HIV/Aids to be respected and upheld.

Significant achievements in the Northern and Upper East region involves the growing emergence of the Community Aid Groups (CAGS otherwise known as paralegals) and Sister Watch Groups (SWG's) as a strong social movement at the grassroots. There is growing evidence that this is happening as the CAG's and SWG's identify and tackle problems such as school drop outs among girls. The formation of the SWGs and CAGs has affirmed the commitment of FIDA to make the programme community-based. This has helped in building a system that will be useful in creating an autonomous community centred process in the end.

Another notable achievement was the participation by FIDA-Ghana at the UN conference on the Status of Women held in March 2009 in New York. The organisation was provided with an international platform to share its findings at two separate events on the solutions to legal challenges facing Women infected and affected by HIV/Aids as well as a presentation on "Lessons from Africa" where FIDA-Ghana shared with the international audience, community responses to reducing violence against women and the incidence of HIV and AIDS

During the period under review, ABANTU successfully organised the 4th Biennial Conference with District Assemblywomen from all the Districts of the country. The Conference sought to consolidate ABANTU's relationship with district assembly women, an initiative which was started in 2004 during the process of developing the Women's Manifesto for Ghana. This time round, the initiative sought to build a strong constituency at the local level on Affirmative Action as well as develop a concrete strategy for the 2010 District Assembly elections. An innovation in the process was the link established between women's leadership and critical policy issues such as climate change, transportation and social security and their gendered implications.

ABANTU succeeded in commissioning a number of technical papers on Affirmative Action with support from different development partners. There were different and common perspectives on the issue and a validation workshop supported by Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) has led to the development of a strategy seeking to launch a long-term campaign on Affirmative Action in Ghana. ABANTU is leading the process under the Women's Manifesto Coalition with organisations like Women in Broadcasting (WIB), WILDAF, WISE and Gender Centre actively involved.

Anti Corruption

During the period under review, GII, received funding support through TI-S from DFID to implement a project titled "Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre – ALAC" This is an Anti-Corruption Delivering Change Programme to provide legal assistance to people confronted with corruption. In line with this, the services of a Coordinator have been engaged to lead the process and two part time lawyers have been contracted to assist in the successful implementation of the project. Various forms of advertisement on the services ALAC renders have been advertised in the print and electronic media.

GII's TISDA Project successfully undertook two studies during the period under review. These include: 1. Case Study - Water Supply in Madina – Accra and 2. Ghana's Water Sector Diagnosis Study. The reports are being finalised and will be ready in the next quarter.

GII again during this period, with the support of/through TI-S, received funding alongside other TI national chapters from Tides Foundation to implement a Poverty and Corruption in Africa (PCA) project – "Strengthening TI's ability to respond to poor people's demand for transparency and accountability.

GII has started the process of reviewing its strategic plan for another 5-year period. This new strategic plan is being compiled through co-operation and in collaboration with a range of key stakeholders including Management, Staff, Board and representatives of partner organisations. The focus of all engagement has been the highlighting of internal and external factors – both actual and emerging – that have an influence upon GII over the 5-year duration of the plan. There is a focus throughout the strategic plan on developing learning systems and highlighting opportunities for promoting a self-sustaining learning culture.

As a result of GII programs anti-corruption campaigns and programmes, issues bothering on corruption continues to be high on public debates and this will in the long run lead to a reduction in corruption and ultimately poverty.

GACC played vital roles in national policy issues especially during the 2008 election period. The activities of the Coalition won an award in an Anti-Corruption Collective Action Competition organised by the World Bank Institute. A paper presented on the Practitioners award by the Executive Secretary is now placed on the World Bank Institute website portal. Further GACC participated in two International Conferences on the UN Global Compact and the role of Businesses in the fight against corruption. These led to the development of a project to work with the Ghana Business Code in the implementation of the United Nations Global Compact, Principle 10. In furtherance of this knowledge the Coalition for the first time collaborated with a Private International accounting firm, KPMG to dialogue with the Public Accounts Committee on their role in ensuring effective Public Financial Management.

The Coalition was also able to secure project funding of USD100, 000.00 from UNDP's Enhancing Representation and Participation programme. GACC is also for the first time hosting a Coalition of NGO networks to work together to build a strong voice of NGO networks through peer learning to play an effective role in policy dialogue to bring change to the underprivileged and marginalised groups.

As a result of the organisation's advocacy and media work, organisations such as Cote d'Ivoire Anti-Corruption CSO and Centre for Business Integrity, Nigeria have paid working visits to the Secretariat to seek for collaboration. Also GACC's press releases and comments have sought to raise issues on corruption and has led to increased public discussions on issues of corruption and now better focused on issues rather than individuals.

Governance

For the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) the first half of 2009 was a historic one, as it ushers the Institute into Phase two of its Capacity Building Project (IDEG-CAP), an indication of the positive impact and outcomes the Institute has chalked overtime.

Under the Formal Interface Frameworks component of IDEG's work, the first two in the series of *Public Policy Dialogues* were held in the first half of the year on "*Global Economic Crises: Challenges and Opportunities for*

Ghana” and “*Towards Peaceful Political and Administrative Transition in Ghana*” which discussed issues of political and administrative transition in Ghana and how policies could be formulated to make the process more formal and peaceful.

As a Local Governance Network (LOGNet) Secretariat, IDEG worked with other steering committee members to develop a 2009 work plan and a budget for funding the network’s 2009 activities. IDEG collaborated with some steering committee members of the Civic Forum Initiative (CFI) and NCCE to review the 2008 Election Reports which was to be finalized in the 2nd half of the year.

The working group of the NCG met on 13th February, 2009 at IDEG to produce an action plan that lays out the advocacy, communication and mobilization strategies for undertaking a professional campaign in support of de-coupling the NGO and Trust Bill and facilitate the establishment of a democratic and facilitatory framework for NGO operations and improved relations in the country.

The first technical review of the draft Bill was submitted to IDEG at the end of April, 2009 by Dr Raymond Atuguba of University of Ghana Law School.

IDEG signed an agreement with ACBF on the 2nd phase of its Capacity Building Project (IDEG-CAP II) on April 7, 2009. The grant, which is the second since 2003 was made to the Institute in support of its institutional development, policy research, dialogue and advocacy and capacity development programs for the next four years (2009 – 2013).

The work of the IEA achieved significant recognition during this reporting period. First and foremost, the 2008 Draft Presidential Transition Bill which was produced by the Institute through an elaborate consultative process served as the blueprint for the 2009 Transition Processes between January and March. Usually, the lack of a Transitional Document brings about tension and acrimony between out-going and in-coming government officials. However, the Draft Transitional Bill by The IEA provided guidelines for the teams, thereby facilitating the processes and reducing tension. The Institute has worked further to incorporate issues that cropped up during this recent transition into the Bill. An updated 2009 Presidential Transition Bill has therefore been produced and copies have already been presented to the President and Attorney General. The Government has indicated its intention to discuss the Bill at Cabinet and present it to Parliament for passage into law.

Secondly, The IEA received a special mention during President Mills’ first State of the Nation’s Address to Parliament. Touching on governance, the President admitted that several areas of the country’s governance agenda require legislative intervention. He then indicated that The IEA sponsored Ghana Political Parties’ Programme which is made up of all the parties with representation in Parliament to agree on several Draft Bills that will respond to the identified needs. He said the Government will therefore consider the Draft Bills by The IEA namely *Public Financing of Political Parties Bill*, *a new Political Parties Bill* and *the Presidential Transition Bill*. The IEA is obviously pleased with this level of commitment on the part of the President to strengthen the Pillars of Ghana’s Multi-Party Democracy. The Institute is therefore engaging in continuous lobbying for possible parliamentary enactment in order to fill the legislative void. The IEA has been investing in the country’s growing democracy over the past five years through its governance programme and is highly motivated to intensify the work by this national recognition and the imminent passage of the Draft Bills of the Institute into Law.

Other programmes by the IEA which have had several positive outcomes are the Presidential Debates and Evening Encounters that were organised by the Institute for the Presidential Candidates in the prior reporting period. The Debates and Evening Encounters shifted the focus of the 2008 Presidential Campaign from one of personalities to pertinent issues within the socio-economic landscape of the country. The Presidential Candidates used the platforms provided by the programmes to make pledges on several issues including gender equality, anti-corruption and job creation. This important work by the IEA is providing a background for holding the current administration accountable. For instance, many of the RAOs who work on some of the thematic areas which the current President promised to work on have been demanding the fulfilment of such promises.

- ✓ Of particular mention is the President's pledge to give 40% of the positions in his administration to women. Women's groups such as Women in Law and Development (WiLDAF) therefore met with the President to remind him to honour this pledge made during the IEA programmes. When this was not done, WiLDAF organised a march to draw attention to the issue and it is gratifying to note that, subsequent appointments to the various Boards of Public Institutions include many women.
- ✓ In addition, the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) has also referred several times to the President's promise to ensure that all officials in his government declare their assets within the first week of their appointment during the Presidential Debates and Evening Encounters. GII is also holding the government accountable on this pledge to help check corruption by government officials.

Finally, The IEA chalked another first through its Ghana Political Parties programme during the period under review. For the first time in the country's political history, the leadership of both the governing and opposition political parties paid a visit to the president at the castle. The purpose of the visit was for The IEA to express gratitude to the president for participating in the Presidential Debates and Evening Encounters. The delegation also used the opportunity to remind him to fulfil the promises he made on the two platforms especially the passage of the Draft Bills prepared by the Institute into law. The occasion was again used to stress on the Institute's interest in collaborating with government on the Constitutional Review Processes that it had started working on. The President was grateful for that historic visit and promised to give serious attention to the issues raised by the delegation. The visit was reported extensively by both the print and electronic media. As usual, this show of camaraderie displayed by the opposing political parties helped to reduce the high political tension between the leading political parties in the country at the time.

The Centre has not done much in the first half of the year. Coming fresh from Ghana's 2008 elections with election support from many institutions and donors, major part of the period was used in compiling technical and financial reports to donors and writing proposals.

However, the Center successfully organized two events that brought stakeholders together to brainstorm on sensitive issues in the country. The Center's post election reflections workshop held at Koforidua delved into the positives and the negatives of the various roles played by various stakeholders in the 2008 elections. The programme was aimed at developing appropriate interventions to avert election violence in 2012.

The Center's symposium on decentralization also revealed weaknesses in the policy and participants brainstormed on possible measures to revive the policy. The programme witnessed high attendance, including ministers of state, academics and the deputy minister of LGRD who promised to take up the suggestions made at the programme.

Even though the HIV/AIDS anti-stigmatization project is ongoing, feedback from the workshops have been positive and the Centre believes the end result will be a drastic reduction in stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Likewise, the first component of the Africa Power Politics and Policy (APPP) programme currently underway has already identified problems with the state supported justice institutions (CHRAJ, Magistrate Court and the Customary Land Secretariat). CDD has given initial advice to the head offices of these institutions and hopes to share with them a comprehensive report after the project. For example, our initial findings are that ADR mediators in most of the magistrate courts have stopped attending mediation sessions because of lack of incentives. Looking at the number of cases that have been settled through this mechanism, we advised the ADR coordinator to strive to sustain the policy.

The second component of the APPP programme currently underway is monitoring MP's accountability to citizens. This phase seeks to build upon and verify findings from the pilot phase, conducted in 2008, which revealed interesting findings. It was realized that about 75% percent of Ghanaians do not know the actual functions of MPs. It followed that citizens' judgment of MPs is based on the ability of the MPs to meet material demands rather than helping to provide public good. The current study will build on these findings and design appropriate strategy in tackling the problem.

Peace Building

During the period under review, WANEP provided technical expertise and institutional support to its national network, Ghana Network for Peacebuilding (GHANEP-WANEP Ghana) to design an early warning system for Ghana. Apart from the design of the system, the testing of the system was implemented during this period using the north-eastern corridor of the Northern Region as a pilot area.

The Ghana Network for Peace building (GHANEP), the national chapter of WANEP (West Africa Network for Peace building) was established in 2003 as a civil society network to prevent, resolve, and transform violent conflicts through collective and coordinated efforts. The early warning programme was conceptualised to build civil society capacity to collect data, analyse and detect the potential escalation of violent conflicts and work for a collective response to prevent and mitigate such threats of violence. The key objectives of the project include: 1) Strengthen the regional chapters of GHANEP and their interface with the state, 2) Strengthen grassroots participation and ownership of peace building initiatives; 3) Establish a national early warning system that is led by GHANEP.

The target areas are the five current regions of GHANEP membership: Northern, Upper West, Upper East, Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions and two new membership regions: Central and Eastern Regions, with emphasis placed on the Eastern Corridor as the most conflict-prone area. The official launch and deployment of the early system will come of in the second half of 2009. Target groups will depend on the reach of GHANEP members but the youth will be specifically targeted, as they are often manipulated by the elders to resort to violence when a conflict flares up. During this period under review, the following activities have been assessed as achievements towards a functional civil society based early warning system in Ghana.

The interface meetings with various stakeholders have raised the awareness of the Ghana Prisons Services in the Northern Region of the need for GHANEP members to engage with prison inmates to offer them knowledge and skills in conflict transformation to help them better integrate into their communities after

their prison sentence. This will help break the cycle of conflict in the communities committed by some of these convicts and ex-convicts.

Regional network chapter meetings offered members the opportunity to discuss and share information and experience gained in their peace building initiatives. During one of the Northern Regional Network Chapter meetings, members agreed to meet the political parties in the region to inform them about the Early Warning System.

Database training organised for Community Surveillance Teams (CSTs) in the 15 communities and 13 Regional Network Chapter (RNC) members in the 5 regions has improved reporting into the EWS. Introduction of CST members in the 15 pilot communities to the respective district stakeholders has led to the recognition of the CSTs at the district level, which facilitated information-sharing on early warning between the communities and the districts.

Ministries of the Interior and Local Government in Accra were briefed on the project and were extremely receptive to collaboration. Partnership agreements will be drawn up with Ministries of Interior and Local Government, and the National Security Council.

Some radio and national newspapers reported that some youth supporters of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) seized and took charge of the Tema/Ashiaman public transport terminals from the workers who were alleged to be National Patriotic Party (NPP) supporters. Similar incidents were also reported in Tamale. These violent acts generated a lot of media discussions to create awareness of the need for people to respect the rule of law in the country. There has subsequently been relative peace in most parts of the country. In search for lasting peace to the Bawku conflict, the President, Professor John Atta Mills paid a working visit to the Upper East Region and met with the key stakeholders to gain information on the status of the conflict and to find a lasting solution to the issue. The meeting was also used to encourage participation of both Kusasi and Mamprusi leaders in dialogue efforts to bring about lasting peace in the region

Although some media reports suggest that the Ghanaian economy is stabilizing, there are also concerns that this is yet to trickle down to the population, particularly those in rural areas who constitute a large percentage of the country's population. To help address the problem of unemployment, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in conjunction with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is for instance, offering support in the form of seed, fertilizer and tractor services to the youth and to seasonal farmers in the 3 northern regions to improve agricultural productivity.

6.1 STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTION

How has the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public?

Policy making is a negotiated process between 4 key stakeholders; government, civil society, donors and the masses that would be affected ultimately by these policies. At any point in time it is important that a high level of trust exists between these stakeholders especially when negotiating policy change. RAOs in Ghana continue to work to promote policy change either through networking with other organisations or on their own. Assessing RAOs credibility in the eyes of the public and other key stakeholders from the perspective of the RAOs serves as a reality check to all key stakeholders in the policy debate and would admittedly lead to negotiated settlements.

On the whole funded RAOs report a positive perception of key stakeholder even though there are a few outliers. All RAOs report often being called upon by government institutions to assist in the preparation of certain policy documents. At times and at the request of government, RAOs present papers on key policy issues at functions and events organised by government. That also signifies the usefulness and legitimacy of RAOs in the eyes of the government in directing policy change. However, the public suspicions of weak accountability and transparency systems operated by some RAOs remain. Occasionally, such issues impact poorly on the public image of RAOs.

Peace Building

WANEP reports that the credibility of RAOs in the eyes of the Ghanaian public increased during the period under review by the. The reason for this increase is that following the December 2008 elections, the Ghanaian public appreciated how close Ghana came towards post election violence. With the Kenya incident of the outbreak of violence following elections in 2007 and following the reported incidences of sporadic violence during the election campaigns in 2008, there was an overwhelming appreciation for the role of Civil Society Organizations in the RAOs in contributing significantly to peaceful elections and a peaceful transition. The President, vice President and cabinet ministers have on several occasions expressed appreciation of the roles of CSOs. It has now evident that policy making refers to the presence and active participation of civil society in Ghana. It is also instructive that the White House official statement on why President Barack Obama chose Ghana as the first country for a state visit to sub-Saharan Africa referred to the “presence of good governance and active civil society organisations”.

WANEP concludes that Civil Society, particularly, the RAOs are now in the forefront of policy making and monitoring of government policies. Government continues to demonstrate willingness of collaboration with the RAOs.

Socio-Economic Development

SEND is of the opinion that RAOs gained more credibility and legitimacy in Ghana in the last period. The GoG, by its actions, recognises CSOs as partners in Development. CSOs are welcome at almost all major discussions on development policy in the country. An example is the recent national policy dialogue on the GSFP, the state collaborated with SEND to initiate, plan and organise this event. Also, governmental MDAs participate and provide feedback on PM&E findings during the launch of The National Development Planning Commission included SEND-Ghana in the review process of the draft national monitoring and evaluation manual for MDAs in Ghana. Ghana’s Development Partners (DPs) involved SEND in the recent review of the Ghana’s Joint Assistance Strategy (G-JAS).

According to ISODEC RAOs are beginning to let their presence felt by the new administration by commenting on the related policy issues relating to their areas of specialisation. During the period under review, ISODEC had the opportunity to present briefing papers on EPAs and the management contract of urban water supply to the Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing respectively.

Governance

According to IDEG, Ghana has observed a major shift in the policy making process for the greater part of the last decade. Increasingly government agencies have included more CSOs in their planning and implementation processes. Hitherto, policy making was seen as a preserve of government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies with the marginalization of CSOs in the process. Examples of this change process include the opening up of the budget making process to CSOs - the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning has since 2005 requested for memos from CSOs to enhance budget making in Ghana. The National Development Planning Commission has also established the cross sectoral planning groups comprising MDAs and CSOs/RAOs to review, refine and formulate medium to long term plans since the beginning of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers since 2000.

This continued trend demonstrates mutual confidence and trust and perhaps recognition of the critical role that RAOs play in the development of the nation. The outputs from the work of RAOs such as IDEG's, both at national and local levels, has consequently accorded them high credibility and a certain mandate to continue the work they do. The media in particular demonstrated a lot of confidence in the Institute (IDEG). Within the last 6 months the Institute's views have been requested on critical national issues such as elections and political parties, narcotic drugs and the image of Ghana, (re-) demarcation of districts in Ghana, prospects for the Ghanaian economy, and issues regarding aid effectiveness.

The enhanced relationship between RAOs and Government is expected to be sustained as RAOs continue to produce objective and credible policy options through evidence-based research.

IEA reports that legitimacy of RAO's has improved tremendously within the first six months of the new NDC Government. The new Government is much more willing to collaborate with RAOs in policy formulation and in finding solutions to the myriad of problems facing the country. This is demonstrated by the commitment on the part of the President to work with RAOs and implement recommendations which have been outlined from the research work of these policy organisations.

The IEA has seen its credibility and legitimacy soar within the reporting period. The Institute also engages in elaborate consultations with all relevant stakeholders before coming up with findings and recommendations on various research topics. The findings are therefore deemed credible and thus accepted by all. Some evidence that points to the IEAs assertion are listed below.

The government willingly used the IEA Presidential Transition Bill to guide the 2009 Transitional Processes. As has already been mentioned, the use of this document ensured a relatively smooth transition. This is commendable since government's acceptance and use of the Bill prepared by an independent think tank demonstrates the state's recognition of the important role played by civil society in democratic consolidation.

This recognition of the key role played by RAOs was re-echoed when the President openly declared his commitment to work with three important Bills produced by the IEA during his first state of the nation's address to Parliament. This is unprecedented in the history of the nation and shows how far RAOs have come in their contribution to policy formulation in the country.

Moreover, the high level of legitimacy accorded RAOs has resulted in the new government's willingness to engage in Constitutional Reforms as recommended by the IEA in the Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP) produced by the Institute. As a matter of fact, the Institute is negotiating with government for a possible collaboration to undertake the reforms and this could only be due to the high credibility enjoyed by RAOs in the country as a whole.

Furthermore, the President for the first time in the annals of the country's history willingly accepted to meet with the leadership of the governing and opposition political parties. This is because the meeting was facilitated by the IEA through its Ghana Political Parties' Programme which discusses critical national issues in a non-partisan and objective manner. Discussions at the meeting were fruitful and have laid the foundation for future interactions.

Aside the presidency, the IEA was also commissioned by Parliament to review the Standing Orders in the House during this reporting period. The House expressed total confidence in the ability of the Institute to carry out this exercise creditably and this shows that RAOs are seen as legitimate by all the different arms of the state. These positive developments are encouraging since they open up the space for the participation of RAOs in nation building.

In the view of CDD the general view of the State-NGO relationship has not necessarily changed in spite of the fact that RAOs and civil society in general have strengthened their relevance and intermediary position after the highly contested 2008 elections. RAOs and CSOs played a variety of roles in bridging civic/peace/voter education gaps, promoting issue based media reportage, addressing corruption issues in the country, helping to moderate incumbency abuse and levelling the playing field for all political parties. In addition, years of advocacy culminated in the incorporation of many RAOs' campaign issues into the ruling party's manifesto and curtailing incident of opposition attack and arrest in the country. For example, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) dedicated a whole chapter in its manifesto to tackling corruption.

Notwithstanding these improvements, the GoG-RAOs relationship is still characterised by mistrust and unease on both sides. GoG is still uncertain about RAOs' role in governance and wary of their power. RAOs on the other hand are occasionally reminded of the kind of resentment that still pertains in official corridors and remain quite suspicious of the integrity of GoG to protect civic space and effective participation. The unease around the surprisingly non progressive drafts of the NGO/Trust Bill and the protracted negotiations with the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment still persists.

The public, after the elections continue to have a favourable opinion of RAOs because they consider the RAOs as watchdogs through which the ideals of good governance and democracy can be realized. The Center still responds to frequent media requests to comment on various governance issues, and members of staff appear on many public affairs focused radio and television programmes. Listeners, viewers and contributors to such programs have largely expressed their appreciation for the explanations, insights and information provided by RAO representatives.

Anti Corruption

GACC reports that RAO's have influenced policy makers in making commitment to ensure good governance. For e.g. government has publicly instructed all appointees to declare their assets as is required by law. The government have on several platforms made references to issues that has been raised by RAO's e.g. Transition bill. Government continues to see CSO's as key institutions in the public policy space and an increasing large

number of CSO's were invited to participate in programs during President Obama's visit to Ghana. Parliament realising that the need that CSO's need to educate the public about the role of the Parliamentarian and also advocate for the strengthening of the institution of Parliament.

GII reports Active involvement of RAOs in decision making process in Ghana. It cites a forum (workshop) organised for GII to explain the methodology of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) to the government and the public of Ghana, the active participations of RAO's in media debate on governance issues, RAO's membership on the National Steering Committee of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) process in Ghana and RAO's involvement in the assessment of the multi-budget support in Ghana as key indicators on the high credibility of RAOs in the eyes of the government and the people of Ghana.

Gender and Women's Rights

ABANTU is of the opinion that the ushering in of the government of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) under the leadership of President John Evans Atta Mills has posed some challenges for the political and governance landscape. Even though there has not been any direct interference in the work of RAO's during the period, RAO's themselves have been a little bit cautious in positioning themselves as critical actors in the democratic space in relation to Government. With specific reference to the women's movement, the government does not seem to have taken very seriously its commitment to promoting women's representation in decision-making structures to the 40% level as declared in their own political Manifesto. Demands for accountability have not been very well received by government. However ABANTU as host of the Women's Manifesto Coalition has worked with the Domestic Violence Coalition and NETRIGHT to engage with the Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs. There is a sense that the Minister highly values this relationship as she directly calls on ABANTU on policy engagement issues particularly with reference to governance. Clearly this entry point if well developed can impact positively on government / RAO's relationships in the medium to long –term.

In the view of WILDAF albeit GoG recognises complementary role of NGOs/CSOs, there have been incidents that are sending mixed reactions to the NGO community. It appears GoG is exhibiting a level of intolerance for critical voice. Apparently a partisan colouration was put on these incidents. 2 groups of NGOs, the first, WILDAF Ghana, to present a petition to the government on the promise of 40% representation of women in political position; and the second to demonstrate because of the rising cost of living were prevented from undertaking those activities. Both were prevented by the police although WILDAF had the opportunity to present the petition with 4 representatives instead of the 300.

FIDA-Ghana's capacity to engage at the social, legal and political levels has increasingly enhanced its position in the country. At the national level FIDA has managed to attain strategic positions as members of various coalitions such as the Domestic Violence Coalition, NETRIGHT, WILDAF and as the NGO nominee represented at the Government's National Domestic Violence management board as well as members of the Board of the National Population Council.

The credibility and legitimacy of FIDA is evidenced in its active participation in various consultative processes by donors and civil society groups. Reference to this is its participation in a consultative meeting with CIDA to fashion out mechanisms in addressing constraints facing NGO's and to contribute towards CIDA's future direction. FIDA was also invited to participate in Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) second Women's Land Academy, which brought grassroots women leaders from around Africa together to share

strategies and innovations towards gaining and maintaining land for women and to input into the Five year strategic plan of LAWA and the DV Coalition.

Secondly, as a result of the organisation's position, advocacy work with state actors involved in service delivery to women has often resulted in improved and quality services from the state's legal and law enforcement institutions. FIDA recognises that the most effective way to implement legal reform is to do so within the context of a coordinated community response. That is, legal professionals need to communicate and cooperate with medical professionals, social service agencies, the police, CHRAJ, Legal aid Board and other domestic violence advocates. Therefore advocacy work directed at these actors has proven to be the most effective way to promote victim safety and offender accountability. Indeed clients who have suffered rights violations have often reported of prompt response to their cases by law enforcement agencies.

An example is the case of a widow in Tamale, who was arrested by the police because her neighbour falsely accused her of assault. When the case was reported to FIDA, the organisation managed to withdraw the case from the District police to DOVVSU where police had been trained to handle domestic issues, and the issue was amicably resolved. An analysis of the evidence shown above indicates that when state actors realize that civil society organisations is playing its watchdog role, in monitoring its activities and that any slackness on their part will come up for public scrutiny, such state actors tend to make significant contributions in offering protection for victims of rights abuse.

Local women NGOs regularly consult with FIDA to make presentations, and share their experiences at such platforms. These meetings have served as channels to build consensus on the problems of women and draw up strategies on how to address them.

FIDA-Ghana has become well known for its legal aid program and advocacy work. It has a long history of activism which has made FIDA-Ghana "influential" and distinguishes it from many other burgeoning women's movements in the country. But more important for the organization is its ability to improve the individual lives of women in the provision of free legal aid and court representation to indigent women.

The Gender Centre reports that RAOs generally maintain some credibility and legitimacy in the eyes of government and the public but there are times there appears to be some mistrust on both sides. Even some members of parliament believe that RAO's are there to use their beneficiaries to make money. As a result of this perception it has become difficult for RAO's to mobilize MPs for programmes.

From the ARK foundation, RAO's work in research, policy analysis and advocacy cannot be ignored by the government. Increasingly government is paying attention to such work. There also seems to be much better government RAO partnerships in addressing issues – in security, human rights, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and the economy. This is seen in consultation meetings, panel discussions, use of CSO Practitioners as consultants and technical advisors to governments and execution of joint projects. These developments positively impact the government's image, improving the record in good governance.

In the view of NETRIGHT Measuring the effectiveness of policy advocacy is difficult and it is even more difficult to indicate whether a change in policy or behaviour is due to advocacy or other factors. In spite of this difficulty however, the organisation believes major social changes have been achieved due to the work of RAOs.

Although, there has been a recent change of government, NETRIGHT believes the Government of Ghana (GoG) recognises RAOs as credible and legitimate organisations who have made immense contributions to the

development of the country. Women's rights RAOs met the new Minister of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) and presented a set of demands to the Minister. These demands included issues on economic justice, gender violence, and politics and decision making. Oil and gas issues were also discussed.

It is hoped that NETRIGHT's dissemination and advocacy programme on critical national issues will help strengthen the legitimacy of RAOs.

Human Rights Organisations

CEPIL observes that there has been considerable collaboration and interactions between the Center and other governmental institutions such as the Attorney General's Department, the Judiciary and Parliament. In fact as part of this collaboration, Select Committee of Parliament on Legal, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs requested the Center to assist in the organisation of a one day stakeholder conference to discuss the property Rights of Spouses Bill that was before the Select Committee. These are clear indications of the credibility and legitimacy of CEPIL in the eyes of GOG and the public in contribution towards policy change in the country.

On the whole RAOs are often called upon by government institutions to assist in the preparation of certain policy documents. At times and at the request of government, RAOs present papers on key policy issues at functions and event organisation by government. That also signifies the usefulness and legitimacy of RAOs in the eyes of the government in directing policy change.

Through the Media Foundation's role in coalition-building on rights advocacy, GoG and public have gained stronger confidence and respect for RAOs. Evidence of this is exemplified in MFWA's dialogue with government on legislative reform, e.g. Defamation Bill, RTI Bill and Draft Broadcast Policy.

7.1 GRANT MANAGEMENT

It is important for G-rap to consistently assess the satisfaction of its clients with service delivery from the PMT to help improve the grant process. G-rap therefore asks Grantees to assess the grant making systems every semester. To improve reporting, GRAP provided training in financial and narrative reporting. G-rap also facilitated media engagement and publicity of RAO activities in line with the communication strategy of the programme. Most grantees reported that the training clarified most of the challenges with reporting and commended the PMT's prompt response to requests for capacity support from grantees.

7.1.1 Grant Management

Grantees expressed different opinions with G-rap management. ABANTU reported that the above initiatives have been useful but that the RAO community has been less proactive during the period under review. It concludes that the RAOs should develop strategies to utilise the space for active engagement with G-rap processes to enhance the effectiveness of RAOs.

CEPA expressed worry over the dwindling levels of funding from G-rap. The IEA shares this view and regrets that the funding provided under the G-RAP grant has been reduced substantially. Even though the IEA has managed to secure some funding from other sources, the drastic reduction in the core funds from G-RAP affected some research and advocacy outputs of the Institute. The clarification meeting between the Project Management Team and RAOs was very important since it brought up salient items to be included in the Progress Report. The IEA continues to seek for funds from other sources to be able to constantly carry out its core mandate with the Administrator now fully responsible for fundraising at The Institute.

G-rap grantees committed to address key organisational issues identified in the institutional assessments for the last grants. The PMT has been following on compliance.. The table below presents an overview of these requirements and when they were fulfilled by RAOs.

ORGANISATION (RAO's)	GRANT	BENCH MARK	Submission
ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT	CORE	1. Should develop an exit strategy from G-RAP Funding	Submitted 22-9-09
ARK FOUNDATION	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Ark Foundation should develop and share with key stakeholders including G-rap a succession plan for all key positions in the organization set out within the framework of the organizations human resource development strategy 2. the Ark Foundation should develop an exit strategy from G-rap funding 3. the Ark Foundation should develop a comprehensive multi annual strategic programme that feeds into the overall objectives and goals of the organization 	Submitted 29-4-2009
CDD	CORE	1. CDD should develop an exit strategy from G-Rap funding	Submitted 15-9-2009
CEPA	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEPA should develop and share with key stakeholders including G-Rap a succession plan set out within the frame work of the organization's human resources development strategy. 2. CEPA should develop an exit strategy from G-RAP funding 	Submitted 14-10-09
CEPIL	CORE	1. CEPIL should develop and share with key stakeholders including G-RAP a gender development plan for the organization. This should be set in the framework of the organization human resources strategy. The plan should clearly define timelines and outputs/ targets to be achieved	Submitted 22-9-2009
FIDA	CORE	FIDA should share with key stakeholders including G-RAP a succession plan set out within the framework of the organization's human resources development strategy	Submitted 14-10-2009

FOREST WATCH	SPF	FWG should develop and share with key stakeholders and G-RAP a comprehensive gender strategy for the network.	Not submitted
GACC	SPF	GACC should develop strategies to Coordinate with State Anti Corruption Institutions, including parliament to develop synergies in promoting their core objectives	Submitted 22-9-2009
GII	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GII should develop and share with key stakeholders including G-RAP a gender development plan for the organization. This should be set in the framework of the organization human resources strategy. The plan should clearly show timelines and outputs/targets to be achieved. 2. GII should develop strategies to coordinate with state Anti Corruption Institutions, including parliament to develop synergies in promoting their core objectives 	Submitted 14-10-2009
GSHRDC	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GSHRDC should share with key stakeholders including G-RA an organizational development plan that comes out of a comprehensive OD assessment of the organization. 2. GSHRDC should review the composition of the Board. 	Submitted 27-10-2009
IEA	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The IEA should develop and share with key stakeholders including G-RAP a succession plan for all key positions in the organization. This should be set out within the development strategy 2. The IEA should develop an exit strategy from G-RAP funding 3. The IEA should develop a funding strategy outlining a diversified funding base to cover its core needs 	Not submitted – working on it for approval 13-10-2009
IDEG	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IDEG should develop a financial sustainability strategy over the next 5 year period. 	Responded 20-9-09 on file
ISODEC	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ISODEC should develop and share with key stakeholders including G-RAP a succession plan for all key positions in the organization’s human resources development strategy. 2. ISODEC should develop an exit strategy from G-RAP funding. 3. ISODEC should develop a funding strategy outlining a diversified funding base to 	<p>Submitted 22-10-2009</p> <p>Submitted 20-10-2009</p>

		cover its core needs.	
NETRIGHT	SPF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NETRIGHT should have an independent financial management system in addition to setting up a separate account to receive GRAP Funds 2. NETRIGHT should develop an Organizational Development Plan that outlines clearly a growth path for the organization 	Submitted 10-9-2009
NGND	SPF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NGND should develop a comprehensive multi annual strategic programme that feed into the overall objectives and goals of the organization 	Submitted 28-10-2009
MFWA	CORE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MFWA should share with key stakeholders including G-RAP a succession plan for all key positions in the organization. This should be set out within the framework of the organization's human resources development strategy. 2. Develop and share with key stakeholders including G-RAP, a strategic plan for the organization. 	Submitted 14-10-2009
SEND GHANA		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEND Foundation would apply G-RAP funds solely to the Ghana Country Programme. 	Benchmark fulfilled in reports submitted
TWN-AFRICA		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TWN should share with key stakeholders including G-RAP funding a succession plan set out within the framework of the organization's human resource development strategy. 2. TWN should develop an exit strategy from G-RAP funding. <p>TWN should develop funding strategy outlining a diversified funding base to cover its core needs.</p>	Not submitted , TWN working on benchmark – 13-10-2009
WANEP	CORE	WANEP should develop an exit strategy from G-RAP funding.	Not submitted

8.1 CONCLUSION

Most reports delayed by over 8 weeks. In spite of explanations from the PMT, those who delayed in reporting attributed to the fact that they received their grants in later than July and so counting their six months falls out of the reporting cycle.

In spite of these delays, reporting from most organisations shows remarkable improvement as organisations are better able to report their activities in the context of the overall aims of G-rap. RAOs continued to report on organisational development processes like governance, financial management, funding base development and human resource base, and described how this has changed in the current reporting period.

Key staff movements were reported by Ark where the recruitment of the Director of Programs has increased the membership of the LMT to six. The Director of programs directly assists the Executive Director and is in charge of staff management. At IDEG the Head of Training and interface unit resigned in May 2009. ISODEC employed six new key staff, including a director of programmes. Apart from these, the grantee organisations remained fairly stable.

The policy making environment remained fairly stable and probably saw less activity than the previous period. This can be accounted for by several reasons one of the key being that the new government was putting in place its own systems and mechanisms for running the country. That notwithstanding many RAOs believed that the policy environment remained stable and still accommodated their views. Only a few were of the opinion that the policy environment has moved back into the dark ages.

The perception of RAOs by key stakeholders in the policy space was rated very high by most grantees. Most grantees are of the opinion that it has soared since the elections in December 2008. A lot of Ghanaians witnessed the key roles played by the RAOs in ensuring a peaceful election.

Generally the RAO community remained active and pursued key policy issues including the implementation of the DV Act, trade and investment policy, petroleum sector bill and mining and extraction sector bill legislation.