

Annual report 2008

Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme, G-rap

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action
ARHRs	Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights
CDD	Centre for Democracy and Development – Ghana
CEPA	Centre for Policy Analysis
CEPIL	Centre for Public Interest Law
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
DPs	Development Partners
DV	Domestic Violence
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EGN	Economy of Ghana Network
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
EOI	Expression of Interest
FC	Funders Committee
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FOSDA	Foundation for Security and Development in Africa
GACC	Ghana Anti Corruption Coalition
GNECC	Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition
GPRS	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
G-PWYP	Ghana Publish What You Pay
G-RAP	Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme
GSC	Grants Sub Committee
GTLC	Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition
HLF3	High Level Forum 3 on the Paris Declaration
ICB	Institutional Capacity Building

IDEG	Institute for Democratic Governance
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
ILGS	Institute of Local Government Studies
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
ISSER	Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDBS	Multi-Annual Donor Budget Support
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAP	National Advocacy Project
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGND	Northern Ghana Network for Development
NPC	National Peace Council
NPPA	National Policy and Plan of Action
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PB	Programme Board
PMT	Programme Management Team
PSD	Private Sector Development
PSI	Presidential Special Initiatives
RAOs	Research and Advocacy Organizations
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
SEND	Social Enterprise Development Foundation
SP	Service Provider
SPF	Special Projects Fund

TICAD	Tokyo International Conference for African Development
TWN	Third World Network
U K	United Kingdom
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peace building
WARBAN	West Africa Regional Advocacy Network
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa

The Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme (G-rap)

The Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme (G-rap) is a pooled funding mechanism for supporting the institutional development of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with a main focus on Research and Advocacy Organizations (RAOs) in Ghana. It offers core funding to established RAOs, selected on a competitive and needs-assessment basis, as well as one-off grants for networks and coalitions engaged in special advocacy projects. G-rap seeks to ensure that government systems deliver pro-poor policy by broadening the quality and range of inputs (based on robust data and analysis) into the policy process from civil society.

DFID, DANIDA, the Royal Netherlands Embassy and CIDA have made commitments in principle to G-rap totaling approximately US\$ 9 million for 2008 – 2010.

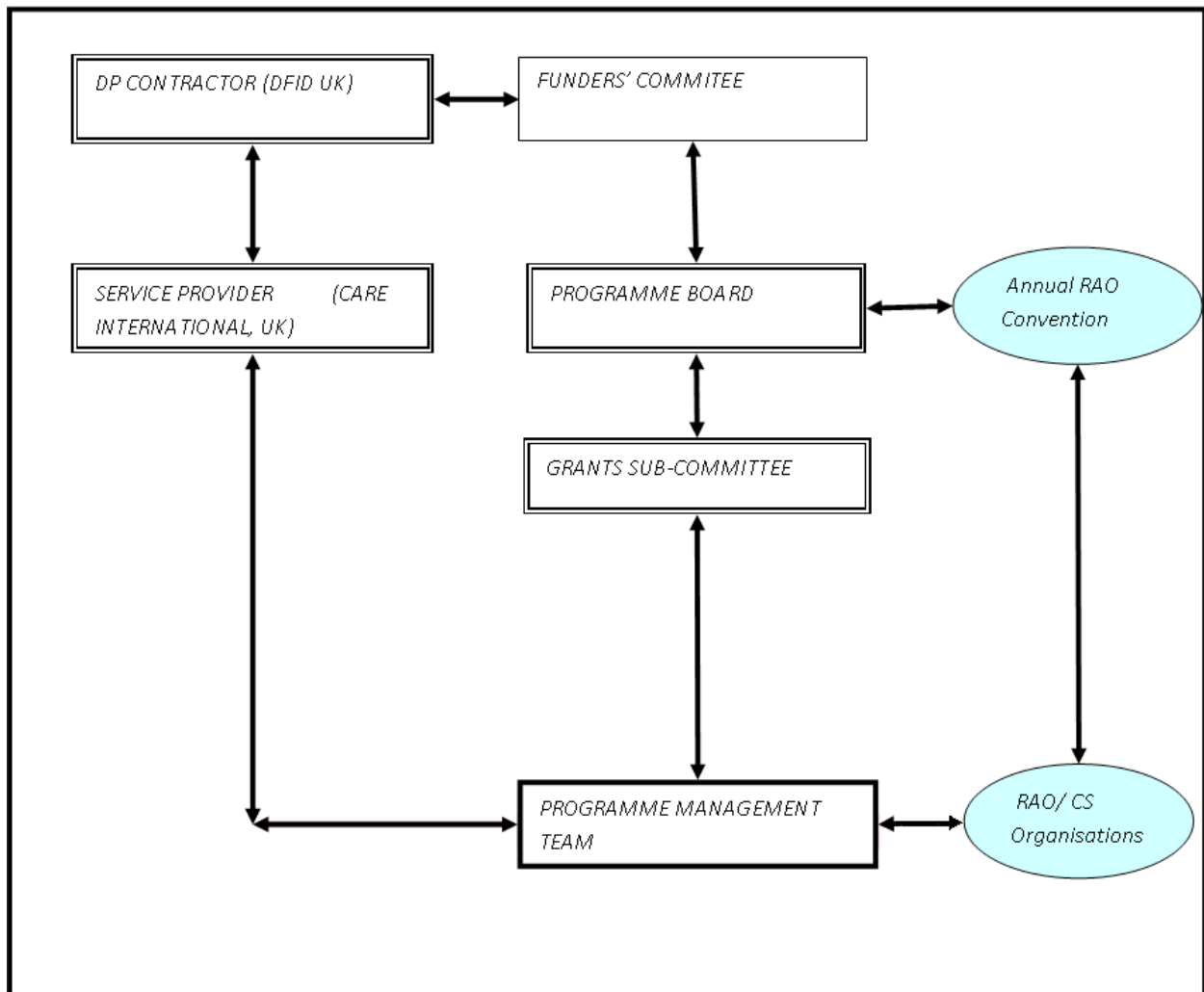
Over the past decade, CSOs in Ghana engaged in policy research and advocacy have built up a proven track record of carrying out evidence-based research in support of development policy and holding government to account for its policy choices and its use of public resources. The major challenge to this process has been access to funds for the kind of work these organizations do. Funding to RAOs has been short-termed and projectized and has not created room for organizations to build their funding base.

G-rap has since 2005 delivered timely and efficient grants to RAOs in Ghana, increasing substantially the allocation of funding to this sector. The fund has also contributed to lowering transaction cost of supporting this sector, for both donors and RAOs. It has strengthened the institutional capacity and the autonomy of grantees to engage actively in the policy process and to advocate on behalf of the poor and socially excluded in Ghanaian society.

Since March 2008 G-rap is managed by a new PMT under CARE International UK/CARE GOG. The new team comprises a Programme Director based at CARE Gulf of Guinea office and has 50% of his time on G-rap, Team Leader, Fund Manager, a Programme Manager and three administrative support positions. As a major outcome of the 2007 midterm review of the programme, a new governance structure that redefines the constitution and roles of the Programme Board and that of the Funders Committee is in place.

G-rap currently offers two types of grants; Core grants and Special Project Grants. G-rap provides core grants to individual RAOs to strengthen the institutional capacity of RAOs to better engage pro-poor policy processes. G-rap provides Special Project Grants to support the programmes of networks and coalitions.

The organizational structure of G-rap



Message from the Programme Board

2008 saw the transition from the old to a new programme management team (PMT). The first half of the year was filled with a lot of activity – mostly administrative and trying to manage a call which was already in motion when the new PMT took over. The PB set the ball rolling with the introduction of the members of the new PMT at its May 2008 meeting. This had been preceded by the confirmation of the PB itself under a renewed mandate. Other administrative matters were attended to, particularly the formation of the Grants Selection Sub-Committee of the PB.

Following a briefing on its roles and responsibilities under the new G-rap governance structure, the PMT went to work – developing a full-term work plan, embarking on a public relations drive, and elaborating a monitoring and evaluation as well as other management systems for the programme.



Prof. Akilagpa Sawyerr, PB Chair

By the PB's second meeting in December 2008, the GSC had done enough work to present two reports on RAOs selected for core and special project funding. The new PMT for its part had also completed some major tasks –an outline of the work plan for discussion and the status report on the programme fund account.

There is still some unfinished business regarding the formalization of the Programme Board and its executive powers. During the period the Board affirmed the principles of gender mainstreaming in RAOs and the need for organizations to move towards financial sustainability

Looking back, so much ground was covered in 2008. The year 2009 promises to be even more interesting, as the team has concluded the fundamentals for “take off” – working to realize the goals outlined for this phase of the programme.

Message from the Programme Management Team leader

So quickly a year has gone by and it feels like we have hardly had time to bring our heads out of water. What with taking over a programme when a call for applications has already been issued in the newspapers; when you do not have all the team members in place. When you have hardly understood what everyone wants from you.

So we went into overdrive, late nights, weekends and honing in skills to absorb a lot of information very quickly. Alas, a new governance structure? It has to get better; more meetings everyday. By August 2008 everything has kicked in nicely and grants have been approved. More meetings, with each applicant organization, successful or otherwise.



Lawrencía Adams, Team Leader

Very angry voices or murmurs... Why? Grants are too small. Exit strategy? Gender action planning? More RAOs; less elitist; new reporting formats!

Surely the new PMT must be very confused; the DPs need to know about this...write to the PB... more meetings, more disclosures, better understanding, and more communication. Have the waters been calmed?... only up to the next call.

It has been challenging but the team has risen to each one and we are very proud of ourselves. All in all we have enjoyed the past year and have committed to seeing the eighteen month period through.

The major lesson here is communication and more communication for better understanding.

As we prepare for our next call in September 2009, we are rolling out our capacity development programme. The innovation here is one on one delivery of technical assistance and joint learning, a deviation from the workshops model: delivery to a much larger target group.

Overview of the 2008 Annual Report

This 2008 Annual Report of G-rap catalogues events relating to the 2007 RAO Convention; the transitioning process from an old to a new programme management team; and activities of the programme. Additionally the report catalogues: RAO activities and policy engagement; as well as the lessons learned on the implementation of projects and activities up to March 2009.

The 2007 RAO Convention focused on heightening advocacy for a credible NGO regulatory framework with particular emphasis on the Trust/NGO Bill 2006 and the Draft Policy Guidelines 2007. The convention was organized under the theme: **“Achieving an Enabling Legislation and Regulatory Framework for NGOs/CSOs: An Agenda for Good Governance in Ghana’s Fourth Republic”**. The two-day, convention was held at the M-Plaza Hotel in Accra and attracted over one hundred and fifty participants drawn from RAOs, other NGOs/CSOs at the National and Regional levels, Government Officials, Development Partners and the general public. A major outcome of the convention was an eleven-point Communiqué that, among others, stated the unanimous position of the NGO/CSO community on the Draft Bill and Guidelines as well as some far reaching and substantial amendments to the original draft documents.

The programme survived a successful change in management in March 2008 with the replacement of the programme management team and the restructuring of the governance framework to reflect the recommendations of the medium term review. A week long handing over process involved a team from the old PMT, CARE UK/- GoG/- and Dfid and the new PMT and focused on the review of handing over notes provided by the old PMT on the status of funds and other outstanding issues.

The report also outlines the key activities of the Programme Board and of the PMT. The Programme Board held three meetings and a subcommittee of the programme board, the Grants Subcommittee, held two meetings to review and recommend grants for core grant Call 3 and SPF Call 1 and 2. The new PMT combined systems development, grant making and capacity development of the RAO community.

Specifically the new PMT: simplified the grant making process; revised the existing G-rap management manual, developed a monitoring and evaluation framework as well as other periodic narrative and financial reporting formats. The PMT also developed a full term work plan which incorporates all activities to be completed under the current phase of the programme; a communication strategy aimed at systematically and consistently engaging with stakeholders. The new PMT undertook a month long outreach programme in October of 2008 with the objective of reaching out to RAOs based in the regions outside the Greater-Accra Region. Furthermore the new PMT hosted a stakeholder interaction in an informal atmosphere where grantees had the opportunity to interact with the Programme Board, Funders, and major RAOs and the PMT.

The year under review saw an increase in the number of grantees from fourteen to twenty-seven (27) RAOs. Up to March 2009, a total of US\$3,535,441 was disbursed and this comprised US\$2,917,750 disbursed to core grantees and US\$617,691 disbursed as special project funding. Of the US\$2,917,750 disbursed to core grantees, US\$482,750 was disbursed between April 2008 and June 2008 while the rest – US\$2,435,000 was disbursed between July 2008 and March 2009. All the US\$617,691 of special projects funding was disbursed between July 2008 and March 2009.

RAO worked in four main thematic areas: Gender and Women's Rights; Political and Economic Governance; Peace Building and Security; and Social Policy Advocacy. The year also saw increased networking around key policy issues to promote change. Activities of particular RAOs in these thematic areas are analyzed in this report.

The key issues going forward that will inform the future design and implementation of the programme included: full disclosure of funding base by RAOs; resistance to change; statistical reporting; high expectations from CARE GoG, Donors and the Programme Board; and institutional strengthening and capacity building.

1 2007 in Perspective

1.1 2007 RAO Convention

1.1.1 Background

The G-rap RAO Convention is a platform for bridging the gap between policy research and advocacy and the policy and decision making process. These RAO conventions have served as annual status checks for G-rap/NGO Community relations. It is acknowledged that the development of a credible and enabling legal and regulatory framework for NGOs is the cornerstone of any governmental policy aimed at maximizing the full potential of NGOs to contribute to national development. Successive Ghana governments since 1993 have sought to assert state control over the activities of NGOs thereby undermining the constitutional right to free association and stifling the development agenda of NGO regulation. Concerns identified by the NGO/CSO community in the draft bills to regulate NGOs have not been satisfactorily addressed.



Participants at the 2007 RAO Convention

The 2007 RAO Convention served as a platform to increase the momentum in advocating for a credible NGO regulatory framework with particular emphasis on the Trust/NGO Bill 2006 and the Draft Policy Guidelines 2007.

1.11.2 Objectives

The objectives of the 2007 RAO Convention were to: (i) further illuminate, inform and educate the promoters of the Bill, government, the media and the general public of the harmful impact of the proposed laws as it is presently; (ii) create another platform and opportunity to broaden the stakeholder consultation among NGOs at both national and local levels in understanding the dangers posed by the draft laws and to mobilize stakeholders for action; (iii) help facilitate a quick resolution of the impasse between the NGO community and government and lead to a successful passage of a credible law for NGOs in Ghana.

1.11.3 Themes and sub themes

The theme for the convention was: **“Achieving an Enabling Legislation and Regulatory Framework for NGOs/CSOs: An Agenda for Good Governance in Ghana’s Fourth Republic”**. The five sub themes deliberated on in the convention were as follows:

- (i) Character and contributions of CSOs to Democratic Development in the 4th Republic;
- (ii) Developing a Credible Regulatory Framework as an Agenda for Good Governance
- (iii) Consolidating Key Concerns of NGOs/CSOs on Proposed Trust/NGO Bill (2006) and Draft Policy Guidelines for NGOs (2007);
- (iv) Monitoring of G-rap and RAO Programming;
- (v) Towards a Credible Legal and Regulatory Framework for NGOs in Ghana.

1.11.4 Outcome

The 2007 RAO Convention concluded with the issuing of an eleven-point Communiqué that, among others, stated the unanimous position of the NGO/CSO Community on the Draft Bill and Guidelines as well as some far reaching and substantial amendments to the original draft documents. The Convention was unanimous in its recommendation that the Trust and Non-Profit Making CSOs Bill 2007 be amended as follows: (i) To decouple the Regulation of Public and Private Trust and NGOs/CSOs; (ii) Remove all Provisions that offered the Constitutional Right to Freedom of Association and Expression which stifle the operation of NGOs/CSOs in Ghana; (iii) The draft National Policy for Strategic Partnership with NGOs/CSOs 2004 should form the basis for the development of a separate legislation for NGOs/CSOs.

1.2 2008 in Perspective

1.2.1 Change Management

A new programme management team (PMT) took over the day to day operations of G-rap programme in March 2008. A thorough handing over phase reviewed handing over notes provided by the old PMT on the status of funds, audit for the period August 2007 – March 2008, the transfer of assets, and clarification of the new governance structure by DFID.

The Team



Elvis, Desiree, Cornelia, Lawrencía, Henrietta, Tatiana and Kojo

The operations of the new PMT is governed by a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that describes the common commitment of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Danish Agency for International Development Cooperation (DANIDA) to support the development of research and advocacy capacity in Ghana through the implementation of the Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme (G-rap).

This MoU establishes the scope, principles, structures and guidelines for the development and implementation of the G-rap and replaces the Framework Memorandum between Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom signed in February 2004. Additionally the new MOU describes the relationships between DFID as a lead donor and co-funders who contribute on the basis of this MOU or through other bilateral arrangements with the lead donor.

2. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

2.1 The Programme Board

The Programme Board (PB) – a central body to the functioning of G-rap programme – has final responsibility for G-rap’s overall management, strategy, policy development, external relations and the setting of priorities. The PB has final responsibility for selecting grantees and for determining the level of individual grants while ensuring that robust transparency and governance standards operate. The nine-member PB comprises the following: two RAO representatives, two Parliamentarians, Chair of Funders Committee, four Eminent Ghanaians. The PB elects a Chair and Vice Chair who preside over meetings and act as liaison with other sub-units of G-rap.

<i>Prof. A. Sawyerr</i>	<i>Eminent Person and Chair</i>
<i>Prof. Kwame Ninsin</i>	<i>Eminent Person, Vice Chair</i>
<i>Dr. Cheryl Gopaul</i>	<i>Funders Committee, Chair</i>
<i>Prof. Ama Ata Aidoo</i>	<i>Eminent Person</i>
<i>Mr. Akoto Ampaw</i>	<i>Eminent Person</i>
<i>Hon. Sam Sallas-Mensah</i>	<i>MP, Chair Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts</i>
<i>Hon. Nii Adu Daku Mante</i>	<i>MP, Chair Parliamentary Finance Committee</i>
<i>Mrs. Angela Dwamena Aboagye</i>	<i>RAO Representative – ARK Foundation, Ghana</i>
<i>Mr. Kojo Pumpuni Asante</i>	<i>RAO Representative – CDD, Ghana</i>

2.1.1 Programme Board Meetings

The programme Board undertook two major activities – three programme board meetings and two grants sub committee meetings in 2008. Three Programme Board meetings were held in May 2008, July 2008 and December 2008. In the May 2008 meeting, a new Programme Board was confirmed, a Chairperson selected and the grants sub committee formed from among

the members. The new PMT was introduced and the roles and responsibilities under the new governance structure discussed. In the July 2008 meeting, the Grants Sub Committee Report on RAOs, selected for Core and Special Projects Funding was presented and approved.

2.1.2 Grants Sub Committee

The Grants subcommittee is a sub committee of the PB with a mandate of ensuring that G-rap’s grant selection process is effective, efficient, transparent and fair. The GSC met on two occasions – July 2008 and December 2008 – to review and recommend decisions for G-rap’s Call 3, Core Grants and Special Project Fund Call 1 and Special Projects Funding Call 2 respectively.

2.2 Programme Management Team

2.2.1 Management Systems Development

Since its inception in March 2008, the new PMT combined systems development, grant making and capacity development of the RAO community. These include the following: (i) a simplified and more transparent grant making process, especially at the point of final decisions on grants. This simplified system is captured in a grant hand book guidelines for RAOs; (ii) the existing G-rap management manual have been revised to incorporate new administrative and financial management procedures. Other systems developed include: a monitoring and evaluation framework; a governance scheme (structure); periodic narrative reporting formats; and financial reporting formats.

The New Programme Management Team

*Kojo Ansah -Programme Director, CARE/GoG
Lawrencia Adams-Team Leader;
Elvis Otoo – Programme Manager;
Kojo Nunoo,-Fund Manager;
Cornelia Benyah – Office Manager;
Henrietta Osei – Office Assistant; and
Johnson Appiah – Driver/Messenger.*

2.2.2 Work Planning

The PMT developed a full term work plan by the end of the first semester. The work plan incorporates all the activities to be completed under the current phase of the programme and is informed by the budget approved by DFID. The workplan captures grant making processes as well as key programme activities to promote the institutional development of CSOs in Ghana.

The workplan also identifies all indicators for reporting/monitoring progress towards achieving goals in the logframe. The workplan has been reviewed by the Programme Board, and the Funders Committee as well as other stakeholders.

2.2.3 Communication

G-rap recognizes the need for a focused, systematic and consistent communications and public relations strategy to engage with various stakeholders and achieve mutually beneficial relationships with its target beneficiaries. The PMT has pursued this public relations drive through the holding of meetings, workshops and other print and electronic media activities. Two major activities have been undertaken: (i) the new PMT has developed a communication strategy that defines the broad framework of its work; and (ii) signed an MOU with a communication's print media outfit – the PUBLIC AGENDA newspaper – to highlight G-rap's activities and to serve as a channel for capacity building.

This development has achieved two significant results: (1) the G-rap communication plan/strategy outlines how the programme should engage with stakeholders – RAOs, Funders' Committee, Programme Board, Media, Internal Public, Strategic Partners, Potential Funders, Policy Makers, NGOs/CSO sector/Think Tanks. (2) Under the agreement with the Public Agenda newspaper two feature articles have so far been published and were carried in the April 2009 edition of the newspaper and were titled: "GFD Direct More Energy Into Accessing Common Fund" and "Fighting Corruption: GACC Emphasizes

Prevention". Series of such publications will be carried in the Public Agenda newspaper to further the G-rap communication strategy for an agreed period of about six months in the year 2009.



Bernice Sam - WiLDAF, Marilyn Aniwa -Parliamentary Centre, Rose Mensah Kutin- ABANTU

2.2.4 Information Outreach

A perception survey commissioned in 2007 showed that the G-rap programme is viewed by a number of RAOs as an elitist Accra-based funding mechanism for RAOs in Accra. The new PMT undertook a month long outreach programme in October of 2008 with an objective to reach out to RAOs based in regions outside of the Greater-Accra region. The outreach programme engaged RAOs in meetings to discuss the following: (i) determination of levels of satisfaction of information flow from G-rap; (ii) determination of the perception of the programme among regional RAOs; and (iii) determination of appropriate channels of engagement with these non-Accra based RAOs. The outreach team interacted with representatives of over sixty (60) RAOs from the nine (9) regions beside Gt. Accra Region.

2.2.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

The PMT developed a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan for the full term of this phase of G-rap. This framework has a comprehensive system of monitoring programmes and activities of the RAO community as they undertake policy research and advocacy. It also identifies a number of baselines,

monitoring periods, reviews and evaluation. CIDA has also revised the original G-rap logframe to provide quantifiable indicators for achieving results. A baseline survey completed just before the transfer to CARE measured the opinions and expectations of all key stakeholders about the programme. This was assessed to be relevant and has been accepted as a benchmark of opinions and expectation of the programme.



Cross section of Donors and representatives of CARE GoG

Specific tools have been designed for both financial and narrative reporting and the general RAO environment is monitored using information from secondary sources and observations. New financial reporting requires grantees to be transparent and make full disclosure of funding and its utilization. The plan also sets quarterly review meetings between CARE and the PMT to monitor progress against logframe and also provide opportunity to strategize around challenges. Bi-annual meetings have been planned for the larger governance group, PB, Donors, CARE and the PMT to look at the larger strategic issues around the programme, like the mid-term and end-of-term evaluations and the future of G-rap.

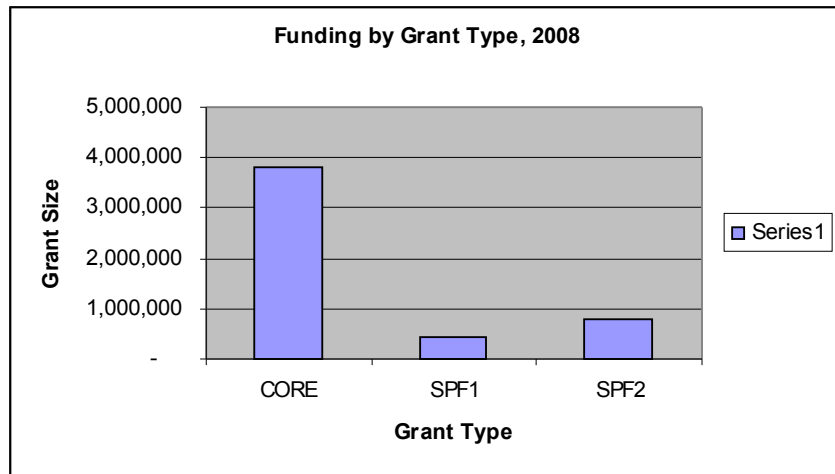
3. GRANT MANAGEMENT

As per the new governance arrangement, a sub committee of the Programme Board – a Grants sub Committee – makes the grant decisions based on the recommendations/analysis of an independent Grant Specialist and the Programme Management Team. The grants sub committee is made up of the chairperson of the funders committee, a Member of Parliament, and an Eminent Person. The Programme Board reviews and approves the decision of the sub committee. The new PMT has opened three new bank accounts. Two US Dollar account to receive and disburse grants and an operational account for day-to-day PMT operations.

3.1 Grantee Financing

In 2008, G-rap awarded a total of US\$5,012,741 to 27 Grantees for both Core (US\$3,818,000) and SPF (US\$1,194,741) funding. Disbursement to Grantees for the same period amounted to US\$3,260,441. The new PMT disbursed US\$ 537,750 to existing Core Grantees on behalf of the former management team and a total of US\$2,722,691 to both existing and new grantees for core (US\$ 2,105,000) and SPF (US\$ 617,691)

In all twenty-seven (27) RAOs benefited from G-rap financial support. Twenty-one (21) RAOs were given core grants; seven coalitions/networks received SPF funding only and four of RAOs – ILGS, PWTP, IDEG and CEPIL received both core and SPF funding.



GHANA RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMME (G-rap)

GRANTS AWARDED & DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE						
JULY'08 - JUN'09						
CORE						
NO.	CONTRACT NO	RAO's	Jul-Dec 08	Jan-Jun 09	Jul-Dec 09	TOTAL
1	03/CORE/01/ABANTU	ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
2	03/CORE/03/CEPA	CENTRE FOR POLICY ANALYSIS	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
3	03/CORE/04/CEPIL	CENTRE FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW	90,000	90,000	70,000	250,000
4	03/CORE/12/GSHRDD	GENDER STUDIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION CENTRE	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
5	03/CORE/14/GACC	GHANA ANTI CORRUPTION COALITION	80,000	70,000	70,000	220,000
6	03/CORE/15/CDD	GHANA CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
7	03/CORE/17/GII	GHANA INTEGRITY INITIATIVE	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
8	03/CORE/22/IDEG	INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
9	03/CORE/26/IEA	INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
10	03/CORE/28/ISODEC	INTEGRATED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	150,000	100,000	100,000	350,000
11	03/CORE/29/FIDA	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS GHANA	50,000	50,000	48,000	148,000
12	03/CORE/31/LRC	LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
13	03/CORE/32/MFWA	MEDIA FOUNDATION FOR WEST AFRICA	75,000	50,000	50,000	175,000
14	03/CORE/35/NGND	NORTHERN GHANA NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT	40,000	30,000	30,000	100,000
15	03/CORE/39/SEND	SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF W/A	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
16	03/CORE/42/ARK	THE ARK FOUNDATION GHANA	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
17	03/CORE/44/NETRIGHT	THE NETWORK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GHANA	40,000	30,000	30,000	100,000
18	03/CORE/46/TWN	THIRD WORLD NETWORK - AFRICA	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
19	03/CORE/47/WANEP	WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACE BUILDING	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000
20	03/CORE/49/WILDAF	WOMEN IN LAW AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA	80,000	60,000	60,000	200,000
TOTAL CORE GRANTED			1,470,000	1,185,000	1,163,000	3,818,000
SPF 1						
1	03/SPF/08/FWG	FOREST WATCH GHANA	50,000	50,000	0	100,000
2	03/SPF/23/ILGS-TML	INSTITUTE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES	20,641	10,000	0	30,641
3	03/SPF/35/NGND	NORTHERN GHANA NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT	20,000	10,000	0	30,000
4	03/SPF/38/PWYP	PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY	80,000	80,000	0	160,000
5	03/SPF/44/NETRIGHT	THE NETWORK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GHANA	50,000	50,000	0	100,000

		TOTAL SPF 1 GRANTED	220,641	200,000	0	420,641
				SPF 2		
1	04/SPF2/08/CEPIL	CENTRE FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW		75,000	75,000	150,000
2	04/SPF2/08/GFD	GHANA FEDERATION OF THE DISABLED		70,000	70,000	140,000
3	04/SPF2/08/IDEG	INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE		50,000	50,000	100,000
4	04/SPF2/08/KITE	KITE		81,000	81,000	162,000
5	04/SPF2/08/PFAG	PEASANT FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA		61,050	61,050	122,100
6	04/SPF2/08/PA	PUBLIC AGENDA		50,000	50,000	100,000
		TOTAL SPF 2 GRANTED		387,050	387,050	774,100
		TOTAL SPF GRANTED	220,641	587,050	387,050	1,194,741
		TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED	1,690,641	1,772,050	1,550,050	5,012,741
		TOTAL GRANTS DISBURSED TO DATE	1,690,641	1,642,050	0	3,332,691
		OUTSTANDING DISBURSEMENTS	0	130,000	1,550,050	1,680,050

EXISTING GRANTEEES	12
NEW GRANTEEES	15
Total Grantees	27

3.2 Grant Making Resources

For the second phase of G-rap 1, donors made a commitment of US\$9,000,000 to the programme and the breakdown is as follows:

- DFID – GBP US\$ 1,193,767.39,
- CIDA – CAD CAD\$ 3,000,000
- DANIDA – US\$ 1,600,000
- Royal Dutch Embassy US\$ 2,000,000

However due to exchange rate differences, especially the falling Canadian Dollar and British Pound, the value of the funding in US Dollar terms had fallen to US\$ 7,827,812.32 as at 12th March 2009. The total disbursement from the FC to date is US\$ 3,945,832.24 and a bank balance of US\$ 237,373.89 as at 31st March 2008, bringing total available funds to US\$4,183,206.13. Below is the table showing the funding commitments for each FC member.

Donor Partner	FC Commitments				
	DFID	RNE	CIDA	DANIDA	Total
Currency Committed	GBP	US\$	Cdn\$	US\$	
Amount Committed	1193767.39	2000000.00	3000000.00	1600000.00	7793767.39
Total Commitments in US\$	1651338.43	2000000.00	2339100.00	1600000.00	7590438.43
Funds Received in 2008 & 2009	DFID	RNE	CIDA	DANIDA	Total
16-Jul-08	0.00	1000000.00	0.00	0.00	1000000.00
11-Aug-08	0.00	0.00	0.00	750000.00	750000.00
12-Feb-09	0.00	0.00	0.00	676747.00	676747.00
05-Mar-09	0.00	811459.13	0.00	0.00	811459.13
06-Mar-09	707626.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	707626.11
					-
Total	707626.11	1811459.13	0.00	1426747.00	3945832.24
Balance as at 31 Mar 2009	943712.32	188540.87	2339100.00	173253.00	3644606.19

4. RAO ACTIVITIES AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

G-rap RAOs continue to engage in a vast array of research and advocacy activities. The diversity of activities and resultant outcomes has gone a long way to shape public policy in Ghana. In 2008, G-rap-funded RAOs were engaged in the following thematic areas: (i) Gender and Women's Rights; (ii) Political and Economic Governance; (iii) Peace Building and Security; (iv) Policy Advocacy; and (v) Networks and Unions. Following is an analysis of the activities of RAOs in the above listed thematic areas. Activities of four RAOs in gender and women's rights are reported; four on political and economic governance; one on peace building and security; two in policy advocacy and one on the activities in networks and unions.

4.1 Gender and Women's Rights

The activities of gender and women's rights advocacy organizations in 2008 aimed at promoting the cause of women in Ghana. The activities of ABANTU, FIDA, the ARK Foundation and WiLDAF are reported here.

4.1.1 ABANTU For Development

ABANTU engaged with political party policy makers to enhance knowledge and commitment to gender equality issues relating to the elections of 2008. Major issues that formed the basis of this engagement included: the heightened discussion on women and politics in the media – debate around the selection of women as vice presidential candidates. As a founding member and Convener of NETRIGHT, ABANTU engaged with the issues of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness through its contribution in influencing the policy processes of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). It also created awareness about the High Level Forum 3 (HLF 3) and its implications for gender equality. Additionally, ABANTU's collaboration with NETRIGHT and UNIFEM highlighted gender perspectives on the Paris Declaration and the Aid conference.

As part of its efforts at developing strong relationships with community based organizations, ABANTU continued its work with CENSUDI, PRIDE in the Northern and Upper East regions and with some selected district assemblies – Tema Municipal Assembly and the Accra Metropolitan Assembly as well as a number of government agencies (Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Environment) to promote the course of women in politics.

4.1.2 ARK Foundation

The Ark Foundation advocated for a systematic and coordinated framework to provide effective response and preventive strategies to Violence against Women and Children and Domestic Violence (DV) in Ghana. Through its collaboration the Ministry of Women and Children accepted and incorporated this policy into the working document – National Plan of Action - to ensure the operation of the Domestic Violence Act. This has come to form the basis of the National Policy and Plan of Action (NPPA) – the working document for the implementation of the Act.

The Ark Foundation also continued its collaborative work with a number of coalitions – NETRIGHT, DV Coalition, Women's Manifesto Coalition, WiLDAF, Growth and Poverty Forum, Spousal Property Rights Bill – to engage on gender and women's rights issues.

4.1.3 FIDA-Ghana

FIDA Ghana activities in the year under review, 2008, were in the areas of advocacy, training and capacity building programmes – for about forty paralegals on the domestic violence bill, legal aid clinics

and mobile outreach which attracted about two hundred women from selected districts of the Greater Accra region, and small scale business management for about 60 women.

FIDA continued its advocacy for the improvement of women's reproductive health rights through effective implementation of the 1999 Health Care Policy Reform which mandated the provision of free medical care for the elderly, pregnant women and children under five years of age.

4.1.4 WILDAF

WiLDAF engaged with the Chief Justice's office on women's access to justice and with Parliament as one of the committees considered two bills – Interstate Succession Bill 2008, and Property Rights of Spouses Bill 2008. WiLDAF also engaged in civil society initiatives that have been assessing the effectiveness of aid and is very instrumental in piloting the issues of gender budgeting which were announced in the 2009 Budget statement.

4.2 Political and Economic Governance

Four organizations – CDD-Ghana; CEPA, IEA; and IDEG – continued their work in the core areas of: Anti-Corruption, Parliamentary Strengthening, Decentralization and Economic Policy issues as well as periodic publications.

4.2.1 CDD-Ghana

In 2008, CDD-Ghana intensified its efforts at building the capacity of Parliament under its programme – “Strengthening Parliamentary Processes in Ghana”. A new legislative drafting office has been established by Parliament. Additionally, the Parliamentary library is to have its own web page on the Parliament of Ghana website. The Hansard department of Parliament would have produced its first set of electronic copies of the Hansard at the close of the project.

CDD is also presently collaborating with the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) to run programmes in “Reforming the Assets Declaration Regime” and “Information Flow among Accountability and Anti-Corruption Institutions” and with GFD on the project “Promoting and Protecting the Rights of PWDs”. Together with Overseas Development Institute (ODI), CDD is conducting a research on the theme: “Power, Politics and the State – How to Develop Political Institutions that Work for the Poor”.

4.2.2 IEA

The Institute of Economic Affairs played an active role in the development of government interventions to mitigate the adverse effects of the rising fuel and food prices experienced by the country in 2008. Some of the measures included a reduction of excise duty and recovery levy on gas and oil, kerosene and marine oil; debt recovery levy, excise duty on premix fuel as well as import duties on staples including rice, wheat, yellow corn and vegetable oil. Additionally, IEA was instrumental in government's efforts to expand the strategic food reserves, reduce food tariffs and expand public investment in agriculture to boost production in the short to medium term.

IEA is also in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and the Korean Development Institute to research into how to promote SMEs development under the Korean Knowledge Sharing Project. Presently the Institute serves on the National MetA Governing Council – an alliance of partners working to improve access to medicines by increasing transparency and accountability in the healthcare system around the way medicines are selected, regulated, procured, distributed, supplied and then prescribed to and used by patients.

4.2.3 CEPA

CEPA's Spatial Dimensions of Poverty Project looked at the MDG indices at the district level, the Accelerated Growth Strategy and the Gender Poverty and Economic Growth Projects. CEPA has also undertaken a capacity building training module for staff of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, PSD and PSI through the Ease/Cost of Doing Business Project and continues its collaboration with these government agencies at different levels to build capacity of officials. CEPA worked with the MOFEP and other agencies on Aid Harmonization and Effectiveness and on the Northern Ghana Growth Study with DFID, local chiefs and opinion leaders aiming at an accelerated growth strategy for Northern Ghana.

4.2.4 IDEG

IDEG continued its Ghana Speaks Lectures and embarked on a number of policy research activities in 2008. It represented CSOs on the national planning committee for the High Level Forum 3 (HLF 3) which was hosted by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. IDEG also coordinated civil society organizations' input into the Intergovernmental Fiscal Decentralization Policy at the Ministry of Local Government and Environment. IDEG continuously engage with a number of networks and coalitions – Ghana Civil Society Forum on Aid Effectiveness, LOGNET, and Civil Society National Planning Committee on UNCTAD XII, Freedom of Information coalition. IDEG continued its hosting of the Growth and Poverty Forum.

4.3 Policy Advocacy

TWN and ISODEC continued their engagement on trade policy advocacy in 2008.

4.3.1 TWN

TWN prepared position papers– Financing for Development and a Trade Finance Issues paper. It also produced targeted publications for the UNCTAD XII conference held in April 2008 in Accra. Three of the papers were: "Is Africa benefiting from its rich mineral resources?"; "Gender and EPAs"; and "Economic Partnership Agreements". TWN additionally engaged with Ministry of Trade, ECOWAS and African Caribbean and Pacific officials at the headquarters on topical policy issues such as human rights, economic partnership agreement as well as trade, finance and development issues. It also continued its working relationships with community groups in mining areas of the Eastern region by holding training and capacity building sessions on mining policy issues, processes and constitutional rights to enhance the capacity of communities to engage with mining companies and state institutions.

4.3.2 ISODEC

ISODEC continued its engagement with a number of networks and coalitions – 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), Public Agenda, Centre for Public Interest Law, Cedi Finance Foundation and the West African Regional Advocacy Network (WARBAN) – on issues in reproductive health and education rights of girls.

4.3.3 NGND

NGND continued its close engagement with district assemblies and community based organizations. NGND worked with the Northern caucus in Parliament on the government's proposed 25 million US dollars as seed money for the Northern Development Fund. It also worked with affiliate networks to

promote social accountability. Twelve districts have been supported to use participatory monitoring and evaluation tools to monitor the delivery of social services in water and sanitation and in education.

4.4 Peace Building and Security

4.4.1 WANEP

In the period leading up to the 2008 elections, WANEP advocated a security policy that took into account the preservation of national cohesion and promotion of national unity. WANEP collaborated with the UNDP, Ghana and the Ministry of Interior to design the functions of the National Peace Council (NPC) and also conducted capacity building training workshops with Regional Peace Councils. WANEP has undertaken work with the Bawku Peace Initiative – a coalition of civil society organizations working for peace in the Bawku area. This coalition includes such organizations as: IBIS Ghana, Action Aid Ghana, World Vision Ghana, BEWDA, Muslim Council, Catholic Bishops Conference and the Christian Council of Ghana.

5. LESSONS learned on implementation

The roll out of the G-rap programme over the period generates notable challenges and certain unexpected developments – lessons relating to relationships with the programme structure and lessons emanating from the implementation of projects by RAOs within the context of the broad government policy. For the year under review, following are the major lessons that provide useful platforms for future design and implementation of the programme.

5.1 Full Disclosure of Funding Base by RAOs

The principle of core funding makes the assumption that all parties show a lot of trust and would fully disclose resources available, the sources of these resources and its use. This will thus enable the PMT to properly assess funding gaps of the applicants for support. Unfortunately some grantees are yet to fully appreciate these new measures.

5.2 Resistance to change

The PMT is tasked to develop and evolve a funding mechanism that is transparent, efficient and meets the needs of both donors and beneficiaries. In a constantly changing donor and policy environment, the program must be versatile enough to adapt easily to these changing conditions. In the past period, some grantees wrote to the programme board questioning the right of the PMT to introduce new financial and narrative reporting formats.

5.3 Statistical Reporting

RAO reporting lacks adequate quantitative information, showing very little verifiable evidence of their engagement with policy makers. Though G-rap funds RAO institutional overheads to strengthen the RAOs to engage in pro-poor policy making processes, it is expected that RAOs would report on their programmes and in doing so provide some verifiable statistics about capacity building, engagement with State and Non State actors as well as outcomes of advocacy and campaigns. New narrative and financial reporting formats have been designed to guide grantees to report on essential and measurable achievement.

5.4 High expectations from, Donors, Programme Board, CARE International

A high profile programme usually suffers high expectations from all stakeholders. There is evidence of high expectations from all G-rap stakeholders; this is contained in a perceptions survey of all stakeholders which formed the basis for a G-rap communications strategy.

5.5 Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

G-rap is committed to the institutional strengthening of RAOs. Capacity building has been one of the underlying principles of the team's interaction with RAOs. The team makes use of every opportunity to exchange with grantees on programme and fund management. Emphasis is placed on programme development and financial reporting. A number of capacity gaps were identified during the grant assessments. These gaps have informed the development of capacity building programmes for RAOs and the larger CSO community. The challenge facing the team is how to deploy the training series in an efficient manner so as to benefit the larger RAO community. Current plans are around using mass media, like a newspaper, to disseminate information about institutional strengthening, fund raising and

programme management. The PMT has started testing this approach with the Public Agenda Newspaper. This newspaper focuses on development issues and has a good credibility rating within civil society circles. The paper has been tasked to run features on all 28 grantees of G-rap. These features would be serialised over a period. The RAO community's response to this will be the final determinant in the approach to CSO capacity building.

ANNEXES

1. FULL TERM WORK PLAN
2. STATUS OF DISBURSEMENT
3. GRANT PROCESS CHART