



Ghana Research & Advocacy Programme

**G-rap NARRATIVE REPORT**

**(July 2009 – December 2009)**

**CONTRACT NUMBER: CNTR 03 5188**

**2009**



*Contents*

<u>G-rap NARRATIVE REPORT.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>(July 2009 – December 2009).....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CONTRACT NUMBER: CNTR 03 5188.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2009.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Contents.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Acronyms.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility Movement.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>1.1 CONTEXT.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>2.1 RAO COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>3.1 RAOs PERCEPTION OF THE GENERAL POLICY MAKING ENVIRONMENT IN GHANA</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Desk review to identify gaps in NSF II (2006 -2010) and gender sensitive interventions funded</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>by GAC.....</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>5.1 MOST SIGNIFICANT RAO ACHIEVEMENTS.....</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>6.1 RAO PERCEPTION OF THEIR INFLUENCE ON POLICY.....</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>7.1 Grant Management.....</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>8.1 Conclusion .....</u>	<u>60</u>

## Acronyms

AAA – Accra Agenda for Action  
ABANTU – Abantu for Development  
ACBF – African Capacity Building Foundation  
AEW – African Education Watch  
ALAC – Alcohol Advisory Council  
AMA – Accra Metropolitan Assembly-  
ARHR – Alliance  
for Reproductive Health Rights  
AGI – Association of Ghana Industries  
AWDF – African Development Fund  
AWLA – African Women Lawyers Association  
AfriMAP – African Governance and Monitoring and Advocacy Project  
AVRL - Aqua Vitens Rand Ltd.  
BPfA – Beijing Platform for Action  
BNI – Bureau of National Investigation  
BEWDA - Bawku East Women Development Association  
CAGs - Community Aid Groups  
CDD – Centre for Democratic Development  
CEDEP – Centre for the Development of People  
CEPA – Centre for Policy Analysis  
CEPIL – Centre for Public Interest Law  
CSO – Civil Society Organization  
CC – Climate Change  
CAMFED – Campaign for Female Education  
CARE GOG – Care Gulf of Guinea  
CEGENSA - Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy  
CONnet - Coalition of NGOs Networks  
COWIG – Coalition of women in governance  
CHROG - Coalition on Human Rights in Oil and Gas  
CHRAJ – Commission on Human Right and Administrative Justice  
CBO – Community Based Organization  
CRC – UN Committee on the Rights of the Child  
COI – Conflict of Interest  
COP – Communities of Operations  
CEDAW - The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women  
CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility Movement  
CID – Criminal Investigation Department  
DACF – District Assemblies Common Fund  
DCSP - Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper  
DfID – Department for International Development  
DCE – District Chief Executive  
DIIS – DII  
DSW – Department of Social Welfare  
DV ACT – Domestic Violence Act  
DOVVSU – Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit  
ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States

**EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment**  
**EITI – Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative**  
**EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**  
**EU – European Union**  
**FONG – Farmers Organizations Network of Ghana**  
**FHI - Family Health International**  
**FYC - Federation of Youth Clubs**  
**FPTP -First past the Post**  
**FOI – Freedom of Information**  
**FES - Friedrich Ebert Stiftung**  
**FoE – Friends of the Earth**  
**FoN - Friends of the Nation**  
**FIDA – International Federation of Women Lawyers**  
**GBC –Ghana Broadcasting Corporation**  
**GSHRDC – Gender Studies and Human Right Documentation Centre**  
**GRSCDP – Gender Responsive Skills and Community Development Project**  
**GTZ - Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (Deutsche)**  
**GAC – Ghana AIDS Commission**  
**GACC – Ghana Anti Corruption Coalition**  
**GCRN – Ghana Community Radio Network**  
**GEA – Ghana Employers Association**  
**GES and MOE – Ghana Education Service/ Ministry of Education**  
**GIMPA - Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration**  
**GII – Ghana Integrity Initiative**  
**GJA – Ghana Journalist Association**  
**G-JAS - Ghana Joint Assessment Strategy**  
**GNCCI - Ghana National Chamber of Commerce & Industry**  
**GNECC – Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition**  
**GPRS – Ghana Poverty Reduction strategy**  
**GPPP – Ghana Political Parties Programme**  
**G- PWYP – Ghana Publish What You Pay Coalition**  
**G-RAP – Ghana Research and Advocacy Program**  
**GSEFP – Ghana School Feeding Programme**  
**GTLC – Ghana Trade and Livelihoods Coalition**  
**GIFNET – Governance Issues Forum Network**  
**GoG – Government of Ghana**  
**HIV/AIDS- Human immunodeficiency acquired syndrome**  
**HIPC – Heavily Indebted Poor Countries**  
**ICT – Information Communication Technology**  
**ID -identification cards**  
**IDASA – Institute for Democracy, South Africa**  
**IDEG – Institute for Democratic Governance**  
**IEA – Institute of Economic Affairs**  
**IGP – Inspector General of Police**  
**IMF – International Monetary fund**  
**IMC - Interim Management Committee**  
**ISODEC – Integrated Social Development Centre**  
**IBIS – IBIS**  
**KITE – Kumasi Institute of Technology Energy and Environment**

**KPMG – KPMG**  
**LRC – Legal Resource Centre**  
**LOGNET – Local Government Network**  
**MFWA – Media Foundation for West Africa**  
**MOU – Memorandum of Understanding**  
**MDGs – Millennium Development Goals**  
**MISEREOR - MISEREOR**  
**MOWAC – Ministry of Women and Children Affairs**  
**MEST - Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology**  
**MDA - Millennium Development Authority**  
**M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation**  
**MDBS – Multi Donor Budgetary Support**  
**MMDA – Metropolitan Municipal and District Assembly**  
**NCAP - NetherLands Climate Assistance Programme**  
**NCOM - National Coalition on Mining**  
**NCG - National Consultative Group**  
**NDC – National Democratic Congress**  
**NDPC – National Development Planning Commission**  
**NHIS – National Health Insurance Scheme**  
**NPAHR - National Plan of Action for Human Rights**  
**NETRIGHT – Network for Women’s Rights**  
**NGND- Northern Ghana Network for Development**  
**NNED – Northern Network for Education Development**  
**NADMO - National Disaster Management Organization**  
**NSF - National Strategic Framework**  
**OPWD - Organisations for Persons with Disabilities**  
**ODI - Overseas Development Institute**  
**PTA/SMC – Parent Teacher Association/ School Management Committee**  
**PLWA – People Living with AIDS**  
**PEP - Exposure Prophylaxis PRSP – Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers**  
**PMT – Programme Management Team**  
**PWYP – Publish What You Pay**  
**Q&A – Questions and Answers**  
**RAO – Research and Advocacy Organizations**  
**RTI – Right To Information**  
**REDO - Resource and Environmental Development Organisation**  
**SADA – Savannah Accelerated Development Authority**  
**SEND – Social Enterprise Foundation for Development**  
**SFO – Serious Fraud Office**  
**SWGs - Sister Watch Groups**  
**SIMAVI - SIMAVI**  
**SSNIT – Social Security and National Insurance Trust**  
**TISDA – Transparency and Integrity in Service Delivery in Africa**  
**TWN – Third World Network**  
**UK- United Kingdom**  
**UNICEF- United Nations Children’s Fund**  
**UNDP – United Nation Development Programme**  
**USAID – United States Agency for International Development**  
**UNESCO – United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation**

**UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**  
**VAW - Violence against Women.**  
**VSO - Voluntary Service Overseas**  
**WANEP – West Africa Network for Peace Building**  
**WEA - Women Empowerment Advocates**  
**WIB – Women in Broadcasting**  
**WiLDAF – Women in Law and Development in Africa**

## 1.1 CONTEXT

This report provides a comprehensive summary of activities and outcomes of RAO activities for the Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme for the period of July through December 2009. Specifically, it covers:

- an overview of programme objectives, strategies and activities,
- details the RAOs performance outcomes for the second semester programme implementation
- an analysis of achievements/progress to date, including issues and challenges faced by the RAOs.

Twenty core grants and eleven Special Grants were provided to RAOs during the period under review. Generally, grantees are guided by a narrative reporting 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 of the RAOs and how the G-RAP funds have been expended.

The Policy environment in Ghana during the reporting period was characterised by a host of events. Among these were the oil and gas forum, establishment of the constitutional review committee etc. The oil find continued to dominate public debate and received some attention from state and non state agencies.

The G-rap Programme is intended to enhance the capacity of RAOs to carry out evidence-based research and advocacy activities in support of pro-poor policies in Ghana. As a result certain indicators of success have been stated clearly in the Programme's Log frame and some of these include but are not limited to the following; Number of state agencies consulting with RAOs, Number of bills tabled and/or passed with input from G-RAP funded RAOs, Quality & quantity of RAO research; quality and quantity of RAO advocacy, Number of networks issue-based coalitions amongst RAOs, Percentage (%) of grantees demonstrating activity or spend on gender, Number and % of G-RAP core-funded grantees outside Accra. The GRAP logical framework however, has since 2004, gone through several reviews. However in December 2009, a final version of the log was approved by all stakeholders. (see Annex 1)

To be able to determine outcomes of some of the indicators, a thorough assessment is envisaged in an evaluation to be conducted in 2010. For the purpose level of G-rap: **RAO capacity to carry out pro-poor research and advocacy strengthened:** indicators include the following; Number of state agencies consulting with RAOs (out of a list of 26 most relevant government agencies; number of bills tabled and/or passed with input from G-rap RAOs.

The table below shows the performance of some of the logframe indicators during the period under review.

Indicators	Milestone Target	2009 Result
------------	------------------	-------------

Number of bills tabled and passed, <i>with input from GRAP-funded RAOs</i>	4	16
Number of state agencies consulting with RAOs	18	28
Number of RAOs receiving at least 2 years of G-rap core grants	15	15
Number of networking and issue-based collaboration amongst RAOs	10	14
Number and % of G-RAP core funded grantees outside Accra	3 (15%)	1 (5%)
Average number of Publications per RAO on key policy issues per grantee per year (posters, pamphlets, books, policy briefs etc )	3	6
RAO conventions and joint advocacy events <sup>1</sup>	3	3

This report therefore addresses some of these issues that have happened over the period in relation to the indicators. In December 2009, Dfid undertook an annual review on the G-RAP programme using the log frame as a bench mark. A major finding in the review is as follows:

*“Every indicator reflects a strong performance. GRAP has proven to be an innovative model: it has reduced transaction costs for donors and RAOs alike; its absorptive capacity is higher than the original figure set out in the design suggested; it has proved to be flexible and responsive (e.g. creating special one-off grants in addition to core funds); it has been able to accommodate a more diverse range of RAOs than originally conceived; its governance arrangements have been robust enough to meet individual donor standards, yet flexible enough to change structure as needed.”*

At the end of the 18 month period from 2008 G-RAP had committed and disbursed US\$4,907,741 to 28 RAOs with an additional US\$105, 000 pending disbursement, The outcome of Call 4 for core grants was decided in December 2009 and a total of US\$3,380,000 has been committed for 2010.

---

<sup>1</sup>

The accompanying fund report to this narrative report deals with logframe indicators relating to the fund account and donor systems.

## 2.1 RAO COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

The RAOs continue to be active in strengthening their collaboration and networking with relevant stakeholders, government and agencies in their quest to promote policy change. Network building and alliances have been identified as a critical part of policy change. G-rap actively promotes the building of alliances between RAOs through several fora and monitors each RAO's networks with other stakeholders in the policy environment. During the period under review, RAOs engaged with about 15 ministries and 28 state agencies and departments on a host of issues, which included the following; the Domestic Violence Act, Right to Information Bill and the Constitutional Review among others. The table below summarises joint activities of RAOs in the area of policy influence and change.

<b>RAO</b>	<b>POLICY ISSUE</b>
<b>Gender Centre/NETRIGHT/ARK/WiLDAF</b>	<i>Domestic Violence Act and DV Fund</i>
<b>KITE/ISODEC/IEA/CEPIL/NETRIGHT/LRC</b>	<i>Oil and Gas</i>
	<i>Gender, oil and gas project under the theme 'Engaging with oil and gas issues from a gender perspective'</i>
	<i>Transparency in the Petroleum sector</i> <i>Human rights in Oil and Gas</i>
<b>CDD/Gender Centre/FIDA/WiLDAF</b>	<i>HIV/AIDS</i>
<b>ABANTU/SEND</b>	<i>Climate Change</i>
<b>SEND</b>	<i>National Health Insurance Scheme/</i>
	<i>Ghana School Feeding Programme</i>
<b>SEND/CEPA</b>	<i>Savanna Accelerated Development Authority</i>
<b>SEND/IDEG/GACC/</b>	<i>Aid Effectiveness</i>
<b>FIDA/WiLDAF/Hunger Project/ABANTU, Gender Centre</b>	<i>Women Representation in local assembly</i>
	<i>Women's participation in Politics</i>
<b>WiLDA/CEPIL/LRC</b>	<i>Property Right of Spouse Bill</i>

<b><i>CDD/WiLDAF/IEA/FIDA</i></b>	<i>Constitutional Review advocacy</i>
<b><i>GII/GACC/MFWA</i></b>	<i>Right to Information Bill,</i>
<b><i>GII/GACC/CDD</i></b>	<i>Asset declaration regime/ Asset Declaration and increasing information inflow among accountability institutions.</i>
<b><i>GII/LRC/GACC</i></b>	<i>Anti-Corruption</i>
<b><i>LRC/GFD/CDD</i></b>	<i>Disability fund; Disability Act</i>
<b><i>CEPIL/WACAM</i></b>	<i>Environment Impact Assessments/Provision of free legal services including court room representation to mining communities and training on oil and gas to coastal communities in the Western Region</i>
<b><i>TWN/CEPIL/ABANTU/NETRIGHT /CIVIC RESPONSE</i></b>	<i>National Coalition on Mining (NCOM)  Mining Law</i>

As a member and host of the secretariat of the Coalition of NGO Networks-Ghana (CONnet), GACC was part of a three day workshop organised by the governing council to develop a Five year Strategic Plan for CONnet. Proposals are being developed to source funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The coalition of NGOs (CONnet-which seeks to build NGO networks that are effective, well run and which effectively campaign on behalf of their various constituencies, while being accountable to their board members and the wider public, envisages a future where aid is effectively used to mitigate the needs of the majority).

GACC is also a member of the Ghana CSO Aid Effectiveness Forum Consultative Framework also put together a high level consultative group to develop a three year proposal to monitor the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) to advocate for better aid.

### ***Gender and Women's Rights***

As part of their mandate to spearhead and advocate for the promotion of gender rights and equality, RAOs continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the (judiciary) attorney general's office and the legislature as well as civil society. 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 Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre (**GSHRDC**) also continued to collaborate with MOWAC on the implementation of the DV Act. Section 41 of the DV Act requires the Minister of Women and Children to make regulations regarding a number of issues under the Act for its effective

implementation: including training of police and court officials, shelters for victims, modalities for free medical treatment for victims and financial assistance for victims. Other areas recommended for inclusion in the regulation are the sources of funding for the DV fund and its management. A proposed design of shelters for victims of domestic violence under the Act has been amended to suit its purpose and the conditions prevailing in Ghana. The GSHRDC also collaborated with the National Development Planning Commission and the Ghana Aids Commission through Pro-Link Organization in addressing the gender related aspect of HIV/AIDs. GSHRDC participated in the end of year review on the status of women in Ghana, as well as the National level CSO review of Beijing +15 and contributed greatly to the writing of the CSO report on the progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and also participated in the Social Watch General Assembly in Accra in October 2009.

GSHRDC continued to work with RAOs and CBOs such as Amasachina, Pro-Link, WILDAF, FIDA, Hunger Project, CEDEP and Rural Watch-Ghana on a host of activities. In collaboration with Amasachina, Pro-Link and Rural Watch, a baseline survey was conducted in three communities in the Kadjebi district, Koforidua and Wa Municipalities on 0.5% mandatory District Assembly common fund allocation for HIV/AIDs activities. The results revealed delays in the release of funds which hinder implementation of planned HIV activities. Two out of three assemblies (Kadjebi, New Juaben and Wa) did not comply with the 0.5% allocation or use less; Assemblies did not prioritise HIV/AIDs activities and tend to spend on tangible products. Advocacy against negative cultural practices that make women and girls vulnerable to HIV/AIDs infection has increased. As a result, widow inheritance has been banned in the Upper West region and steps are being taken to get the District Assembly to pass a bye-law. The Centre in collaboration with Pro-Link embarked on a sensitization campaign in the Dangme East and Dangme West on women's rights, gender norms that make women vulnerable to HIV as well as ST infections, modes of transmission and prevention. This activity has reached approximately 15,449 out of school youth and 17,256 adults on Post – Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). Currently there is collaboration between the Dangme East and West district assemblies' focal persons on HIV, DOVVSU and District Health Directorate to help victims of sexual abuse access the PEP services and also prosecute offenders of rape.

Together with CEDEP, BEWDA and Amasachina, advocacy to end violence against women and children took place in 15 communities in Wa, Bawku West, Kwaebibirem and the Atwima Mponua districts. This campaign reached a total of 19642 people. Out of this number 9450 were women, 6877 were men with 1655 girls and 1660 boys. Community volunteers have been trained to conduct educational programmes in the communities on the impact of violence, the content of DV Act, gender norms fuelling the spread of HIV and provide direct support to abused women and children in their communities.

GSHRDC, WILDAF, FIDA and the Hunger Project have developed alternative strategies on how to increase women's political representation at the District Assembly and National levels which they are seeking support to implement.. Proposals have been developed and submitted to DfID Ghana, DfID UK, and European Delegation in Ghana for funding. The Centre's work was supported by two donors:, G-RAP and Womankind Worldwide – UK. These donors are supporting organizational and staff capacity development, staff motivation, Support to survivor's program, Women's Leadership and Human Rights program, violence against women.

The **ARK Foundation** also collaborated with government agencies, including DOVVSU, CSOs, MOWAC, Parliament, on victims whose cases needed the intervention of the police. The ARK continues to advocate against violence through REDNET which was formed under Ark's REAP Project in the East Akim district. Total number of victims that needed police intervention in the five districts was 3000 (Asuogyaman – 800, East Akim – 500, Manya Krobo – 500, New Juabeng – 700 and Yilo Krobo – 500)

**WiLDAF**, continues as part of its engagement with the Presidency, Parliament and the ruling NDC Government, to meet the 40% Affirmative Action quota in its Manifesto, to organise meetings and seminars on Affirmative Action for women in decision making. Copies of an analysis of Affirmative Action have been provided to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs as well as the Gender and Children's Affairs Committees. To sustain its campaign on Affirmative Action, an application for a 3 year project on women and governance has provisionally been approved by DfID UK.

Using the Jomoro district of the Western region as a case study WiLDAF also collaborated with The Executive, MOWAC, Attorney General's Office, Judiciary and the Police on gender equality, affirmative action and Domestic Violence during the period under review. The key issues of collaboration included the commemoration of 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence on the 25<sup>th</sup>.November to 10<sup>th</sup>.December 2009 in 12 communities in five districts with eleven network members. One of the major outcomes was MOWAC's commitment to reopen the case of a victim of domestic violence which was had been discontinued. WILDAF has also through newspaper articles, seminars, radio interviews kept the issue within the public domain.

The period also saw WILDAF embarking on its second court watch project whereby WiLDAF personnel observe how the courts engage with the Domestic Violence Act. WILDAF also organised a seminar for judges and judicial actors in Cape Coast and Dambai on the Domestic Violence Act in October 2009. Currently over 60 copies of the domestic Violence Act has been distributed to judges and lawyers in the Central, Western and Volta regions. WiLDAF again is working with MOWAC, and the Attorney General's Office on the Property Rights of Spouses Bill. A position paper has been developed and presented to the Attorney General's Office to support the revision of the Bill.

As a member of NETRIGHT, WiLDAF organised a seminar on the 24<sup>th</sup>.September 2009 on the Ghana NGO report on Beijing +15. In the area of governance, WiLDAF hosted the Coalition of women in governance (COWIG) from Mpohor Wassa, Adenta, Ashaiman and Tema to advocate for the inclusion of women concerns in activities of Municipal and district assemblies. One significant outcome of the advocacy drive was the appointment of two of three women presented by COWIG Ashaiman as Assembly members, and one woman committee chairperson. As part of activities to increase pressure on African states to ratify CEDAW and the African Charter Protocol on Women's Rights, WILDAF facilitated a seminar on CEDAW; 'Optional Protocol to CEDAW and Commonwealth Plan on Action on Gender Equality' in October 2009 for government officials from the Department of Social Welfare, MOWAC, Health, Ministry of Agric, CSOs and donor agencies and also developed a toolkit on CEDAW. As a member of the committee established by CDD Ghana, for the constitutional review (NGO Version), WiLDAF made significant inputs to incorporated components of women's involvement in the review process.

On legal literacy, WiLDAF continues to support the training of legal literacy volunteers in regions where WILDAF has no presence such as Eastern, Ashanti and Northern. In December, 2009, The Hunger Project trained 54 men as legal literacy paralegals. The organisation, under its Community Justice for Women program trained 30 literacy volunteers in Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms to support legal aid services in the communities and established two community reconciliation centres (CRCs) to provide legal first aid to rural communities in the South Dayi and Adaklu Anyigbe districts of the Volta region. In the Ga West and Dangme East districts, WiLDAF under the Rural Women's Empowerment programme, organised workshop for legal literacy volunteers and some traditional leaders on using participatory methods to educate communities on Laws, women and land issues as well as women in decision making. WILDAF was again approached by the Dangme East Assembly to facilitate a workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in December 2009.

WiLDAF donors include DFID, European Commission, GTZ, Womankind UK, Cordaid, Olof Palme Foundation, Kenoli Foundation and AWDF. The organisation again received support from its West African office for the Rural Women's Empowerment Project under which women trained legal literacy volunteers use role plays to educate community people on laws. The Farmers Organization Network of Ghana (FONG), a partner of this project organised public education activities outside of the Dangme East and Ga West districts for WILDAF personnel to talk to farmers and fisher folks on legal rights in Koforidua and Chokomey. The Kenoli Foundation supported WILDAF on its seminar for judicial and non-judicial actors on Domestic Violence Act. As a result the queen mother of Akim Awisa in the Eastern region organised a durbar on domestic violence for her community.

**FIDA** partnered MOWAC as the lead agency to ensure that gender equality and the human rights of women and adolescent girls are integrated into national policies development and frameworks. To sustain its advocacy on the implementation of the Domestic Violence Law, FIDA launched the 16 Days Campaign to end Violence against Women with the theme 'COMMIT. ACT. DEMAND; WE CAN END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'. FIDA presented a solidarity message at the launch of the campaign by MOWAC in Winneba, where FIDA called on the government to commit adequate resources to strengthen institutional mechanisms for women and girls to report acts of violence against them in a safe and confidential environment.

FIDA organised several interactions during the period: Consultative Meeting of Experts/Stakeholders on the development of National Plan of Action for Human Rights (NPAHR), Public forum to create awareness on the rights of arrested persons on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, Meeting to discuss the role of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agency in the implementation of the Domestic Violence (DV) Law (Act 732), and Launch of the Gender Responsive Skills and Community Development Project (GRSCDP).

In terms of collaboration with the RAO community, the last period saw FIDA working with four organisations: Abantu, Women in Broadcasting (WIB), CAMFED and Voice of African Mothers. With Abantu and WIB collaboration a workshop was held to validate a paper on Affirmative Action by Dr. Dzodzi Tsikata. FIDA worked with the Voice of African Women to organise a forum to assess the achievement of the MDGs and provided suggestions for future work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

FIDA continues to receive support from a host of donor organisations: The Womankind, Cordaid, UNICEF, G-rap, and Women German Day of Prayer... In addition to 400 women, men and community leaders reached in the last semester, the programme reached about 152 women and men in the Eastern region alone during the period under review. With In the Greater Accra region alone, FIDA has reached 1,302 men and women with legal aid. FIDA with support from CORDAID provided legal aid to 53 women while two cases were referred to court with one coming out successfully while the other is still pending. An outreach program reached a total of 1200 men and women on education on women's right and the Domestic Violence Act. In all FIDA has reached a total of 3107 men and women in its operational areas.

**ABANTU** engaged with the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary on issues on Women's Rights, Climate Change and Gender, Aid effectiveness and transportation. Abantu worked with NETRIGHT, NCOM, WILDAF, DV Coalition, Women's Manifesto Coalition, Political Parties, NCAP and Gender and Climate Coalition and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) on a nationwide Gender and Disaster Risk Management sensitisation. As a follow-up to the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference with Women in the district Assemblies in August 2009, ABANTU has started training interested women to contest for local level elections in 2010. ABANTU has also become a focal point for mobilising women for consultations on the ongoing policy review of Ghana's Decentralisation System.

On women's participation in politics activities undertaken were media sensitisation, profiling of women parliamentarians; engagement for the first time with non-elected candidates of the 2008 elections; production of a documentary on women's participation in 2008 elections and the production of a booklet on Lessons Learnt on the elections. ABANTU collaborated with Private Sector organizations like: Procter and Gamble, Barclays Bank and SSNIT.

**NETRIGHT** which has been working on gender and economic justice issues, such as the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy and Land Rights since 2008 engaged policy makers other networks and the media on gender dimensions of oil and gas exploration in Ghana. Baseline study was conducted and key issues of livelihoods, land tenure and social problems outlined. Dissemination of information and awareness creation on research findings about the gendered impacts of oil and gas exploration has been done.

### ***PMT Support to Gender Rights Initiatives***

To support the work of gender rights groups, the G-rap PMT initiated two main activities during the period

- The preparation of a national gender forum in the first quarter of 2010 under the theme: ***Civic Engagement for Gender Equality and Good Governance in Ghana: Sharing Experiences, Contesting Spaces, Renewing Commitments.***

The purpose was to assess current policy making trends and to create a space for engaging with policy makers, donor partners, civil society organizations, development practitioners and gender experts and share experiences. Interested contributors including civil society, state actors, donor partners and gender experts were invited to contribute papers that address aspects in the following thematic areas:

- **Historical, political and contextual analysis of gender, civic engagement and good governance.** Should chart, contest and situate discourses, politics and/or policy frameworks, directions and trends. May include analysis of options, alternatives, implications and shaping globally and locally.
- **Institutionalized programmatic responses to gender equality commitments and concerns in good governance through citizen engagement.** Should address practical responses and provide critical perspectives on policies, programmes and projects intended to address gender equality and women's rights concerns in good governance. May include responses deriving from civil society), state or donor.
- **Mobilizing and networking on gender equality for good governance at institutional, organizational and community levels.** May include partnerships and may contest or critique successes, effects, achievements
- **Practical Experiences, workable strategies and novel actions and alternatives by gender equality and women's rights organizations.** May include case studies and specific actions such as coalition building, networking such as Women's Manifesto or the Women's Manifesto Coalition, Sisters Keepers, Social Watch, Women's Caucuses, Gender Budgeting, Daily Monitoring of CEDAW.

In order to design a tailor made solution for gender capacity building within the RAOs, an assessment of the status of gender mainstreaming within the RAOs was commissioned in September 2009.

An interim report on this assessment was delivered in December on 14 RAOs. A full report on all the RAOs is expected in 2010. The initial objective of the assignment was to assist G-RAP Grantees to develop gender strategies for their programmes and organizations. However, upon carrying out a number of interviews and assessments, it became evident that various grantees were at various levels of development, knowledge and understanding of what was required in terms of a gender strategy.

The assessment further revealed that different Grantees were at different levels of developing their gender strategies. While some had completed strategies, others were in the process of developing theirs and some could not initiate the process of designing or putting in place an institutional gender strategy. Some grantees were very familiar with the process and have made it a part of their institutional planning process. These grantees have on their own volition hired consultants to assist them design their gender strategies as well as assist them carry out gender audits of their institutions.

The challenge for most grantees is how to prepare a gender strategy tailored to suit the area or focus of programming. Some of the gender based grantees working in the area of gender are not conversant with the process of developing the strategy. This is not surprising since the process itself requires a lot of thinking through. The assumption is that because gender is an integral part of their focus, there is no need to specifically prepare a gender strategy.

Grantees that are not too familiar with the process have requested that there be a process of mentoring or knowledge sharing, whereby grantees that have developed gender strategies can mentor or take other grantees through the procedure of developing a strategy. Others have requested a full scale training on gender concepts as it applies to their specialization area as well as assistance in the development of the strategy.

These findings will inform the design of specific technical assistance from the PMT in 2010.

## ***Anti Corruption***

The **Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)** works with the Ministry of Education on the Africa Education Watch (AEW) project by organizing Capacity building workshops for Head teachers/PTA/SMC chairpersons on the theme: The effective use of the primary school financing in Juaso, Obuasi, Bolgatanga, Navrongo and Dodowa. In all 160 participants benefited (41 females and 120 males).

GII continued its work with the Ghana Audit Service, Parliament (Subsidiary legislation Committee), Attorney General's Department, CDD Ghana and CHRAJ on strengthening the assets declaration law in Ghana. GII proposed regulations to Act 550 and amendments to Act 550 & Article 286 of the constitution. A baseline survey on the Assets Declaration has been conducted and published

GII also worked with CHRAJ on the Institutionalisation of the 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. A code of conduct has now been produced and launched. Also with, CHRAJ, Ghana Audit Service, Parliament, Attorney General's Department and CDD-Ghana, the Public Officers Liability bill has been produced and reviewed. To promote information exchange among key accountability institutions, GII in collaboration with SFO, Ghana Audit Service, CHRAJ, Police CID Unit, BNI and Public Procurement Authority organised a capacity building workshop on information sharing and proper procedures. The major outcome of this is the signing of an MOU by stakeholders to establish an Information Exchange Forum for Accountability Institutions in Ghana.

GII is active in the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition and engages with the media to encourage them to contribute to the fight against corruption. On the Freedom of Information Coalition (Right to Information), GII held a meeting with key ministers to solicit their support to the bill and joined in a march for the passage of the FOI. Other partnerships were on the promotion of democracy and good governance with the National Catholic Secretariat and the Media. GII continuously engaged the media in its sensitization and advocacy programs on: Assets Declaration, Conflict of interest guidelines, Private Sector and Corruption, Global corruption barometer etc.

GII donors were: USAID, MISEREOR, Bill and Melinda Gates (Through TI-S), G-rap, DFID (Through TI-S Global Transparency Fund Anti-corruption -Delivering Change, Hewlett Foundation (through TI-S) and Tides Foundation (through TI-S). GII also collaborated with the private sector for the Global Corruption Report 2009: Corruption and the Private Sector. This has led to public and media awareness on corruption and its effects in the private sector.

The **Ghana Anti Corruption Coalition (GACC)** collaborated with the Offices of the President, Attorney General, Parliament, Judiciary and some other Public Institutions including CHRAJ and the Auditor General's Department. On the Right to Information Bill, a discussion was held with the Ministry of Information and as a result the Bill has been sent to Parliament. In another development, several high level Round Table Discussions were held for 20 participants with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department, Public Prosecutor, head of drafting legislation, Senior management of the ministry,

media and GACC members was held in the last semester (January – June 2009) on the need for Government to show political commitment by reviewing some Anti-Corruption Laws for their effective implementation. As part of the monitoring process of Anti-Corruption Institutions, the Judicial Service requested collaboration with GACC to embark on an anti corruption public education drive. In collaboration with the Public Procurement Authority, a training manual and articles on Procurement have been developed for public education campaigns. GACC engaged 30 participants drawn from public institutions to fine tune the anti corruption monitoring indicators. The Vice President in the period under review inaugurated a working Group of which GACC is a member to review the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

GACC also worked with the Ghana Business Code (AGI, GNCCI, GEA), to promote the Implementation of the UN Global compact Principle 10 on anti-corruption. and to advocate and educate businesses on the need to work against all forms of corruption, including bribery. Currently about 150 firms (large scale businesses to small and medium businesses) have signed on the code. An MOU between GACC and Ghana Business Code has been signed A pre-forum workshop on Business Action Against Corruption will be organised ahead of the Africa Investment Forum which comes off in February 2010. GACC also collated data on media reportage of transparency and accountability issues. GACC again organised a dissemination workshop on research findings and organised a two training workshops for 55 journalists in Accra, Takoradi and Kumasi.

GACC donors included G-rap, UNDP, British High Commission, and IBIS. As a result of the support from G-rap, GACC secretariat is now very vibrant and now attracts both local and international partnerships. The British High Commission helped the GACC to launch a Project fund for Effective Implementation of Whistleblowers Act 2006 (Act 720) in the period under review. Materials on the whistle blowing have been printed and distributed to the public. A citizen's guide on whistle blowing is currently being developed.

GACC collaborated with 17 Districts, Municipal and Metropolitan Assemblies from the Volta, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Greater Accra and the Western regions over the period on election or nomination of DCEs which aims at enhancing the Accountability of DCEs to their communities. About 180 participants excluding the media participated. Participants included both present and former DCEs. GACC also had an encounter with the KPMG group and the Commonwealth Business Council /Business Action Against Corruption to seek further collaboration to continue enhancing the capacity of Public Accounts Committee members on the role of the Committee in ensuring effective management of Public Finance and enhancing the role of the Private Sector in the fight against corruption.

## **Human Rights**

CEPIL collaborated with the Attorney Generals' Department, Ministry of Energy, Energy Commission and the Ministry of Environment and Science to improve the quality of environmental impact assessments (EIA). This collaboration became necessary as a result of an outcome of a Human Rights Capacity Development Workshop organized for 50 participants comprising women, youth, men and journalist from Ahanta West, Ellembele, Jomoro, Nzema East and Sekondi/Takoradi Metropolis. At the end of the workshop the participants issued a communiqué calling on government to revoke the Environmental

Impact Assessment (EIA) Report on the Jubilee Field presented by Tullow Oil for lack of adequate community consultation and participation. The review identified certain lapses and concerns with the EIA report prepared by the Company. A memorandum was therefore prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. This led to the review of the Report submitted by Tullow Oil to the EPA.

As a member of National Coalition on Mining, CEPIL continued with its campaigns to Stop Violence in Mining areas in Ghana and for responsible and sustainable mining practices in the country. The Coalition organised its national campaign forum in Akoti in the Western region, in order to create a platform for promoting community voice, sharing experiences, and the analysis of mining engendered developmental challenges in order to inform public policy choices. About 1,700 representatives of communities and members of the Coalition attended the forum. At the end of the forum a statement was issued calling for reforms in the mining sector and urging the government and the respective Ministers of Lands and Natural Resources, Finance and Economic Planning, Environment, Science and Technology, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice and CHRAJ to work towards eradicating corporate crime and investigating all human rights violations in the mining sector.

In collaboration with WACAM, CEPIL provides free legal services including court room representation to mining communities in Tarkwa, Prestea, Domase and other areas. CEPIL assisted landowners and farmers from Grumisa in the Western Region of Ghana to seek compensation from Golden Star Resources Ltd who have entered on their farmlands without their consent and constructed roads to pave way for its intended mining operations. CEPIL wrote a letter to the company to stop its operations and to negotiate with the community and pay the appropriate compensation to persons who will be affected before the company can carry on with its operations. The company has stopped its operations and is currently negotiating with the community members.

CEPIL/WACAM continued with the second phase of paralegal training on oil and gas to coastal communities in the Western Region. 15 focal point persons from six selected communities in the Western region of Ghana, Axim, Princess Town, Asanta, Essiama, Kikam and Half Assini were trained in the second phase.

As part of activities on the right to housing, CEPIL continues to prosecute an appeal in a suit against the Ga West District Assembly for the demolition of houses at Mallam, a suburb of Accra. CEPIL again continues to prosecute the cases instituted against Gold Fields Ghana Ltd., Ghana Australian Goldfields (Aglo-Gold Ashanti), Tema Oil Refinery, Golden Star Resources Ltd. on behalf of mining communities. The communities include, Teberebe, Dumase, Atuabo and Tema. There are six cases being prosecuted in the High Court in Tarkwa, one case in the High Court in Tema, three cases in the High Court, three in the Court of Appeal and one in the Supreme Court of Accra. These cases are at the various stages.

The **Legal Resource Centre (LRC)** is still working with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to improve CSO participation in local governance. LRC is a member of the Coalition on Human Rights in Oil and Gas (CHROG), which is made up of nine members: Corporate Social Responsibility Movement (CSRМ), Legal Resources Centre (LRC), Resource and Environmental Development Organisation (REDO), Friends of the Nation (FoN), Integrated Social Development Centre

(ISODEC), Friends of the Earth (FoE), Women Empowerment Advocates (WEA), Publish What You Pay (PWYP) and Law \$ Development Group (Atuguba & Associates)

LRC is also a member of the Ghana Network of NGOs against human trafficking (GACNET). The network provides a platform for the sharing of best practices in the fight against human trafficking. Initial meetings towards formally establishing the network was held during the period under review. An interim Management Committee was also formed.

As part of its activities to improve community/ police relationships the LRC was active among the NGOs working on Police Accountability and Improving Community and Police Relations and the Status of Ghana's Human Rights efforts in relation to Ghana's first periodic reporting to the United Nations Human Rights Council. A visit was made to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and other very senior members of the management committee of the Ghana Police Service to discuss issues of concern to all actors working on police accountability in Ghana.

Together with the Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN), the LRC facilitated the establishment of Community radios in Walewale in the West Mamprusi District of the Northern Region and Bongo in the Bongo District of the Upper East Region to improve civil society participation in local governance.

LRC also collaborated with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) to organise two seminars to review Article 88(1) of the Constitution on the separation of the roles of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice and Article 78(1) of the Constitution on the nomination of the majority of Ministers from Parliament and determining their impact on governance in the country. A report has been prepared and is expected to be published in 2010. . This also emanated from a paper The LRC wrote on the role of Civil Society in enforcement of Ghana's Persons with Disability Law (Act 715) and the UN Disability Convention delivered by the Executive Director of LRC at the invitation of the Ghana Federation of the Disabled in the last semester. The LRC also initiated a case in the High Court regarding the right of prisoners to vote in Ghana's general election. As a result some other organisations and civil society took it up and currently the Supreme Court of Ghana has ruled that prisoners in Ghana should be allowed to vote in the general elections.

The **Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)** continued to collaborate with the legislature, Office of the Chief Imam, Media etc on the Right to Information Bill. It also engaged with traditional authorities in workshops to on the need for the proposed bill. MFWA engaged the Muslim Community to underscore the importance of the RTI advancing the interest of the Islamic community, majority of whom are marginalised.

The Foundation joined other Coalition partners on September 15 2009, to engage with members of the Ghana Editors Guild: A grouping of editorial executives and media educators working to promote high professional standards through peer reviewing.

MFWA worked with NETRIGHT in a public forum on engaging with oil and gas issues from a gender perspective. The Foundation made a commitment to assist in training journalists to report on activities of the sector and to monitor transparency in revenue use as well as the effects of exploiting this resource on women.

## Political and Economic Governance

IDEG provided technical support to Parliament in the preparation of papers on the following: “Fundamental principles of Democracy”, “Have the Principles of Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances been achieved among African Commonwealth Countries?”, “The Role of Political Parties in Democracy Building: The Gender Challenge”, Stakeholders’ Consultative Workshop on Ghana’s Aid Policy and Strategy, Pre-budget Tax Consultative Meeting.

IDEG is the secretariat for Local Government Network (LOGNET) and the Governance Issues Forum Network (GIFNET). The LOGNET zonal knowledge sharing and capacity building meetings have increased in number and enhanced capacity of members to participate in local governance policy advocacy and in programmes to address the basic needs of citizens. GIFNET activity of ensuring deliberative democracy; civic participation in democratic governance is still on-going at the local levels. Currently the GIF has been repositioned to include marginalized people in 7 districts (Ashaiman Municipality, New Juaben Municipality, Ho Municipality, Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam District, Takoradi-Sekondi Metropolis, East Gonja District and Bawku Municipality. GIF/GTF baseline study on Governance and civic participation at district level in the 7 districts has been conducted and validation done at the various districts levels.

On the NGO bill, two consultants have been commissioned by IDEG on behalf of the National Consultative Working Group to review the NGO Policy of 2004 and draft an alternative Bill to the current NGO/Trust Bill. Comments of the review of the 2004 NGO Policy have therefore been submitted to the secretariat pending review by the working group of the NCG.

IDEG, partnered with IDASA (South Africa), AfriMAP, UNESCO, DIIS, AWDF on a host of issues. Together with IDASA, a comparative Study on the Development and Use of Governance Indicators in Africa has been conducted and a draft report submitted to IDASA for review and county level validation. The study enhanced the appreciation of good governance indicators in Africa, with a focus on their development and usage.

The organisation also received considerable support from G-RAP, Christian Aid/DFID, ACBF, UNESCO, IMF, AfriMAP on the implementation of programmes in public policy research, advocacy and capacity development.

The **Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA)** works to ensure the survival of Multiparty Democracy in Ghana and Policy option for managing Ghana’s expected Oil raised public awareness on governance issues between September 2009 and December 2009 through workshops, Public Lectures and Public Debates. In commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The IEA’s scheduled a series of public lectures on the theme, “20 Years of Advancing Multi-Party Democracy.”

The Institute used the first lecture which was attended by 69 participants from parliament, electoral commission, political parties, media, civil society and the business community to advocate for the creation of a national alliance for transformational development; essentially. a framework within which to build consensus on key economic and political policies across the nation’s political, economic and socio-political sub-groupings.

The Institute organized a workshop to further catalyse public discourse on the threat to Ghana's multiparty democracy, posed by the development of noticeably high levels of intolerance across Ghana's political groupings. 40 key members of civil society, Ghana's political parties, the Media, the Clergy and the Public Services, advocated in a communiqué, that the emergence of rancour and intolerance across political groupings be addressed through policy reform and the inculcation into Ghana's political culture, practices that will portray mutual respect, fundamental human rights and accommodation of diversity.

The IEA continued its advocacy for Constitutional and Policy Reform to protect Ghana's multiparty democracy, with a Public Debate which was attended by 94 participants from the electoral commission, parliament, donor community, council of state, academic institutions, political parties and the media. The Plurality system of voting, also referred to as First Past the Post (FPTP), has been criticised for encouraging a two-party state instead of a multiparty system, and making it likely for a single party to hold a majority of legislative seats. Arguments for the FPTP in the Public Debate were that the problems Ghana faced with this system were due to its abuse and that strengthening the system, rather than abolishing it, was the way forward. The argument against this system proposed a Mixed Member Proportional formula. The FPTP argument won the debate. Useful options emerged for reform of the parliamentary election system.

On the policy options for managing Ghana's expected Oil revenues, the Institute has facilitated a series of discussions to raise policy issues and options for managing Ghana's expected oil revenues through workshops and seminars. The Institute commissioned two papers on the revenue management, following which a workshop was organized with 43 participants from political parties, parliament, academic institutions and the media, where these papers were presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Energy.

The IEA again organized a seminar attended by 68 participants, where Todd Moss, Senior Research Fellow with The Centre for Global Development, USA, presented a paper in which he proposed direct cash distribution of oil revenues to citizens, as an approach to protect and accelerate Ghana's political and economic gains.

The IEA continues its work with the network of Ghana's Political Parties, facilitating cross-party dialogue at the level of Chairpersons and General Secretaries of the four parties with representation in Parliament.

Over the period, The IEA worked closely with the Attorney General and Parliament, advocating the review of Ghana's Constitution, the passage of the Transition Bill, the passage of the revised Political Parties Bill, the passage of the Public Funding of Political Parties Bill and the passage of the Right to Information Bill.

In carrying out a series of activities on Ghana's oil find, The IEA collaborated extensively with Dr. Steve Manteaw of ISODEC, Prof. Yankah of the University of Ghana, Mrs. Apori Nkansah of GIMPA, and Prof. Ken Attafua of the Institute of Human Rights and Justice.

In efforts to expand its funding sources, the Institute hosted the Swedish Ambassador at a luncheon to The IEA's work, its vision, achievements and strategic direction. This led to an invitation to T SIDA in Sweden and the submission of a proposal for funding. In November 2009, the IEA engaged in strategic discussions with Ambassador Lyman, Board member of The National Endowment for Democracy, in which the possibility of collaborating towards promoting democracy and good governance in Ghana was explored. Though The IEA still has a deficit in budget, the period saw a new boost in IEA's financing, through a contract it signed with the IDRC in July 2009, to provide core support to the Institute and to

support its research and advocacy. The NIMD continues to support The Institute's work in building the capacity of Political Parties and strengthening democratic institutions.

**The Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)** also continued to work with the police and prisons services, Ghana Aids Commission, Association of People living with HIV/AIDS on the HIV and AIDS anti stigmatization and human rights initiative. The Centre 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. The Centre held training workshops for the partner institutions. There were interesting revelations during the workshops which have informed the Centre's advocacy program on the project. For instance, it was established that the Police service has guidelines for dealing with inmates who have HIV/AIDS but these have no legal backing. With insights from the workshop, the guidelines are being developed into a policy so as to give it the needed institutional backing. Work place policy of regular sensitization and education has also been instituted. For instance, it was established that the Police service has guidelines for dealing with inmates who have HIV/AIDS but these have no legal backing. With insights from the workshop, the guidelines are being developed into a policy so as to give it the needed institutional backing. Work place policy of regular sensitization and education has also been instituted.

CDD during the semester strengthened its network with CHRAJ, Customary Land Secretariat, Judicial Service and Ghana Association of People living with HIV/AIDS on their Africa Power & Politics Project on Local Justice Delivery, HIV and AIDS anti stigmatization and human rights initiative.

CDD collaborated with GII in strengthening assets declaration by public officials and increasing information inflow among accountability institutions. A draft Legislative Instrument has been put together and presented to the Attorney General's office.

## **Socio-Economic Development**

SEND Foundation collaborates with the Office of the Vice-President and offices of the ministers of the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions on the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA). The organization successfully organised, , a national forum on the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) on the theme "Northern Development Agenda: Citizens Call for Action Now to discuss SADA as regards plans, actions undertaken so far and current status as well as prospects. The Forum contributed to broadening public awareness on the Northern Development Agenda through the involvement of over 300 participants with live media coverage, as well as special publications focusing on SADA in the HIPC Update Newsletters and addressed the concerns of civil society regarding the SADA relative to the Northern Development Fund established by Act 768. . SEND secured the commitment of Government through the Vice President to ensure:

- a) The timely approval of the SADA Bill by Cabinet and subsequent enactment by Parliament by the end of 2009.
- b) That Government would commit GHC 200 million to SADA every year beginning 2010.
- c) That the initial GHC 25 million earmarked as seed money for the Northern Development Fund will be ring-fenced for development initiatives as part of SADA.
- d) That SADA is fully integrated in the National Development Plan.
- e) That Civil Society is recognised as a key stakeholder in the Northern Development Agenda.

With the exception of Cabinet's approval of the SADA Bill (which is currently at Parliament awaiting enactment), all other commitments made at the forum by Government is yet to be visible and demonstrable. Subsequent advocacy efforts of SEND-Ghana on SADA will target these commitments which are yet to find practical expression

SEND sustained advocacy on the school feeding programme by way of circulation of newsletters, policy dialogues at the district, regional and national levels following the publication and launch of two participatory monitoring and evaluation reports on the implementation of the GSFP. There have been some remarkable changes in the implementation of the programme since:

- i. Development of a systematic plan termed the "GSFP Social Accountability Project" to sensitise key state and non-state stakeholders of the programme.
- ii. Simplification of the GSFP Implementation manual with roles of stakeholders clarified. Hitherto, some stakeholders of the programme such as district directors of health, food and agriculture as well as community members in some operational districts failed to perform their expected roles as a result of unawareness of or the lack of clarity about roles.
- iii. SEND has completed an agricultural budget tracking study to ascertain the performance of government regarding the allocation of at least 10% of national budgetary resources to the agricultural sector as per the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

On Aid Effectiveness, SEND collaborated with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on the aid effectiveness agenda and has completed the profiling of the of the AEF platforms as part of a three year proposal development to monitor the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). SEND also contributed to the review of the Draft Ghana Aid Policy through direct participation and the submission of a memo emphasizing, inter alia, the need for clarity as regards the role of CSOs. Actively participated in the Multi Donor Budgetary Support (MDBS) High Level Policy Dialogue and made a presentation on the implementation of the MDBS from the CSO perspective.

SEND is supporting the National Health Insurance Authority to develop participatory monitoring and evaluation systems for the scheme. Overtures have been made to the National Health Insurance Authority to formalise partnership relationship between SEND-Ghana and the National Health Insurance Authority in a Memorandum of Understanding

On climate change, SEND-Ghana collaborated with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST). SEND contributed to civil society mobilisation and advocacy on climate change (CC) in Ghana with over 200 representatives of organisations taking part in the Tamale Public Forum and Accra High Level Policy Dialogue on Climate Change. The success of these events contributed to galvanise civil society in Ghana prior to the 2009 Climate Change Conference to discuss issues pertaining to Climate Change and to inspire the Government of Ghana to play an influential role in forging a concerted and strong African voice at the Copenhagen talks (COP 15). A communiqué emanating from the two –day public forum on Climate Change organised in Tamale was carried in the September 15, 2009 edition of the Daily Graphic. It was discussed on GTV Breakfast Show, carried as a news item on GBC Radio "Ghana Today" and was presented to the MEST to inspire government pronouncements and actions. SEND produced and presented a video documentary on Climate Change as a developmental concern highlighting the implications of drought, floods etc and associated consequences on livelihoods in northern Ghana to MEST and the National Climate Change Committee.

SEND In collaboration with other CSOs in Africa, CORDAID used grassroots evidence as the basis to lobby the EU for policy improvement in favour of small producers. Successes achieved include: The EU (D G-Development) committed to redirect resources for investment in agriculture to optimise development results/intervention in Africa. Increased inequalities between small scale farmers and large scale farmers recognised by the EU as a critical development issue which requires immediate intervention. EU agreed to put moral pressure on African government to meet commitments made in the Maputo Declaration on agricultural development financing.

**ISODEC** 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. Discussions are on going around local content, skills development and finalisation of key document on petroleum – legal and fiscal framework. As part of this process an MOU has been signed between ISODEC and the Ministry of Energy for the former to support the national consultation process. After reviewing the draft oil policy document with other stakeholders, Government withdrew the bill on Upstream Petroleum and the oil and gas policy from the public domain for reworking. The organization also worked with the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing on the management contract with AVRL. Currently the government has set up a committee to review the AVRL management contract.

ISODEC's lobbying of the Ghana Health Service on family reproductive health resulted in 13 nurses being attached to the local implementing partners to provide technical support in reproductive health delivery in poor communities.

ISODEC engaged the Parliamentary select committee on Mines to get EITI legislated to ensure mandatory disclosure of mining revenue by companies and government. An agreement was reached to have a technical round table to discuss the consultant's report and ISODEC's position on the report. A draft EITI bill has started, with ISODEC working on the finalization of the bill to include stakeholder recommendation. The organization also collaborated with the minority in parliament to analyse the 2010 national budget in the areas of health, water, education and women ad children which contributed greatly to enrich the debate on the budget on the floor of Parliament.

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.

The ISODEC USAID/World Education Initiative continues its support to school children. 1185 needy pupils were provided with full scholarships in 34 schools in four districts. 34 drama clubs were formed for public education on HIV/AIDs. Currently 7000 community members have been reached on the importance of girls' education, HIV/AIDs and reproductive health. 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 under which mining revenue is being tracked in the three mining enclaves – Eastern, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo by the trained Extractive Engagement Groups. ISODEC engaged with 12 districts in the Northern, Upper East, Western, Eastern Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions in the areas of Natural Resource Governance, participatory budgeting, and reproductive health.

The **Northern Ghana Network for Development (NGND)** during the period under review collaborated with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development on the District Assembly Common Fund. 18 out of the 38 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in the three Northern

regions were tracked. The outcome of this exercise is expected to be published by the first week of February 2010.

On networking, the organization facilitated the formation of NetDec, made up of eleven NGOs to advocate for reform of decentralized structures to promote effective decentralization. This will in effect promote broad participation in local government to demand accountability at district level.

As a result of a study in the three northern regions that revealed that about 68.6% of districts do not have manpower in the decentralised departments, NGND in collaboration with VSO engages volunteers to be placed in the Districts Assemblies in the regions. To make the program more viable, NGND engaged Barclays Bank Ghana Ltd. and some communication companies: MTN and Vodafone to help sponsor the allowance of these volunteers and also support the districts with IT training. Barclays Banks is currently supporting the payment of allowances. NGND, IBIS West Africa, Ghana Institute of Engineers and the Kasa Programme also collaborated to support the volunteers program and this resulted in the training of 20 NetDec members and 10 district assembly persons from the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly. 34 people also were trained in decentralization and advocacy

## **Peace Building**

WANEP worked with the Ministry of the Interior, the National Peace Council and the parliamentary select committee on Defence and Interior by providing technical support for the promotion of peace in the Greater Bawku area. WANEP participated in facilitating a seminar for the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms organised for the Parliamentary Select Committee on Defence and Interior. However, WANEP is not satisfied with the lack of coordinated efforts and the necessary innovation required for enhancing peace. It is anticipated that in the next period of activity from January to June 2010, much improvement will be appreciated in the search for peace in Bawku.

As a member of the Civic Forum Initiative, WANEP supported and organised a General Meeting for the Member Organisations of the Network in Tamale. WANEP continues to play an active role in the CIVIC Forum, a Coalition of key Ghanaian NGOs working in a collaborative effort to ensure the promotion of Good Governance through credible and peaceful elections and promoting democratic values while pursuing collective advocacy efforts to contribute to a constitutional review process that will further deepen Ghana's Democratic Culture. An Annual General Meeting is planned for 2010 to constitute a new Executive Committee/Board.

WANEP had support from G-rap, CIDA, DfID and UNDP on its work on peace building at Bawku. WANEP assisted the Bawku Municipal Assembly by providing facilitation support for Mediation with Inter Ethnic Committee through the Regional Coordinating Council.

On the Private Sector, WANEP is developing a concept to engage the Private Sector in support of Peace building in 2010.

### **3.1 RAOs PERCEPTION OF THE GENERAL POLICY MAKING ENVIRONMENT IN GHANA**

There seems to be mixed perceptions regarding the policy making environment in 2009. While some of the RAOs continued to see the policy making environment as conducive others are not too confident of the policy making space as they perceive a lack of political will by the executive to act on key policy issues.

ABANTU believes that the general policy makers continue to recognise the value of RAOs' contributions. There seems to be an increasing effort to promote gender issues in policy processes. Entry points for promoting gender concerns are in the areas of decentralisation, disaster risk management/reduction, climate change, energy, oil and gas and social security. There is need to deepen learning and sharpen the tools for analysing such critical policies from a gender perspective. .

For the Ark Foundation, the policy leverage of NGOs and/or research organisations comes in different forms: through the impact of their research and advocacy, which if effective acts either as a constraint on government policy or helps to broaden political discourse. For example: work of IDEG leading the Civic Forum Initiative in addressing tensions between political parties during the last elections in Ghana. Often, Think tanks direct impact on government policies and their members often have strong personal links with government as a result some policy changes happen although their trickle down effect may be questionable. Since policy implementation is small on issues in Ghana to some extent especially on policy issues. Moreover, the work of Women's Rights Organizations in terms of research, advocacy and service delivery to abused women brings on board information/data which influences policies and legislations.

WILDADF believes that within the scope of WILDADF's work the policy environment to advance women's rights has been patchy. There is absolutely no political will to engage in consultations on affirmative action as a measure to get more women into political decision making. GoG has not issued any public statement on how it intends to achieve its commitment of 40% representation of women contained in the NDC Manifesto. Statistics of women's representation generally is low with little efforts to change the status as the district level elections come up in 2010. WILDADF's interventions on affirmative action are directed at policy formulation for the purposes of getting more women elected or appointed into the district assemblies and subsequently into Parliament. WILDADF expects support from donors in 2010 to implement WE Know Politics II project to achieve the objective set.

On access to Justice, there are inadequate resources being allocated to consultations around two bills – Property Rights of Spouses and Intestate Succession Bills. Once again consultations have been left to RAOs to undertake giving the impression that it is once again an NGO-led initiative. This state of affairs could lead to a situation where the laws will be passed but application will be difficult because of conflict between customary law and practice and statutory law.

According to GACC although a lot of issues are raised in the public domain and discussed, there is very little effect in terms of changes in systems and institutional processes to reflect policy change. The polarisation of the policy making environment makes it very difficult to focus on issues rather than individuals. There is the need for a strong distinction between political party policies and national policies.

GII believes that the policy making environment in Ghana is more transparent and participatory although this does not reflect in actual change in policy design and implementation. Government is tolerant of dissenting views though slow in responding to them.

For IEA 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. Nevertheless, there is a visible effort on the part of the Government to collaborate with RAO's in the policy development process.

ISODEC thinks that CSO participation in policy discourse is on the increase, some key policy areas still remains closed. For example, when the current government decided to resume its relationship with the IMF, CSOs and labour were not consulted.

GFD believes there is a gradual shift towards the involvement of OPWDs in the development and review of national policies. Reference can be made to recent invitations to participate in the review of the constitution, twenty (20) years of the District Assembly concept and the National Development plan

For CEPIL governments are now more receptive to formulating policies that will benefit of the society as a whole and poor and marginalised in particular. .

CDD thinks the policy making environment continues to be held hostage by short term political incentives embedded in a neo-patrimonial state. Governments favour quick fixes to political, social and economic problems and avoid addressing long term problems. This has impacted on policy certainty and predictability undercutting stable and sustained economic development and reducing the prospects for accelerated growth. The same neo-patrimonial state continues to weaken issue based pressure and demand for performance from the private sector and civil society in general who are reliant on the state and prefer to secure stronger patron-client relationships. This undermines collective action and further weakens policy effectiveness. This practice leads to waste of resources in funds and personnel. While competent staff are victimised and booted out office with the change of government, projects and programs of past administrations are always abandoned or treated with disdain.

For defenders of women's rights such as FIDA-Ghana, there has been marked improvement in terms of greater participation and consultation by the Ministry of Women and Children's affairs (MOWAC) in its activities. The political will required to move policy issues is lacking and this impacts on the length of time involved in the implementation processes.

SEND thinks 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 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.

For WANEP, while there is increasing consultation with civil society organisations in formulating government policies, such consultations need to be better structured and coordinated for the purposes of good reference. The general policy making environment is improving.

#### **4.1.1. 2009 RAO Convention on Oil and Gas Governance in Ghana**

As part of the G-rap RAOs mandate to network around critical policy issues, they selected as their focus, the oil and gas sector given the recent find in the Western region and the issues concerning the development of a transparent and accountable governance framework for new natural resource.

The two-day convention grouped representatives of Government, civil society and the private sector, to discuss and form a position on:

- i) Transparency, Accountability and Development of the Oil and Gas Industry in Ghana
- ii) Examining the current policy proposals for developing and regulating the Oil and Gas sector
- iii) Developing a pro-equity, accountable and transparent legal and institutional framework for the oil and gas sector
- iv) Equitable Social Protection for communities in oil producing areas
- v) Private sector involvement, local capacity and developments in the Oil and Gas sector
- vi) Proposals for distributing oil revenues to avoid the resource curse
- vii) Civil society and State dialogue on Oil: Experiences from CSOs in natural resource-rich economies

The Convention provided an opportunity for CSOs to affirm their coalition to advocate a pro-poor policy framework. A communiqué was issued which essentially called on the Government, CSO, Private Sector and Media as follows:

#### **The Government of Ghana:**

1. To, as a matter of urgency, complete the comprehensive policy framework that will guide the development of the necessary legal and institutional frameworks for the effective management of the emerging oil and gas industry **before the first production of oil in 2010.**
2. To ensure that accountability and transparency are key elements of the institutional framework.
3. To ensure the development of strategies that prioritize the key issues for their short, medium and long term goals and objectives and to **provide a clear time table by the end of this year for their development bearing in mind that production is slated for December 2010.**
4. To open up the process of development of the said frameworks to broad national consultations devoid of political partisanship and involving all stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, communities and the parliament of Ghana.
5. To put in place a transparent revenue management regime taking into account issues of equitable distribution of oil revenues, particularly for the welfare and development of contiguous communities in oil producing areas.
6. To put in place equitable social protection policies and measures aimed at addressing the probable social dislocations and related problems, example the livelihood of fisherfolk, as well as probable negative environmental impact that will arise following the exploitation of oil and gas resources.
7. To develop a legal and financial framework that empowers and is supportive of indigenous local business for effective local participation in the oil and gas industry, for example, setting up an empowerment fund and working with the banking sector to provide the requisite capital for local businesses.

8. To take urgent steps to secure and enhance the necessary human, technical and logistical resources and capacities in readiness for effective governance of the oil and gas industry.
9. To ensure that gender is mainstreamed into all policies, strategies and programmes related to the emerging oil and gas industry.
10. To incorporate the concerns of other vulnerable social groups such as persons with disabilities, migrants and children into the policies, strategies and programmes.
11. To refrain from unnecessarily raising expectations as to the immediate benefits of the oil discovery and its impact on our economy.

**Civil Society:**

1. To build a strong and united front to demand accountability and ensure transparency from Government, state institutions, parliament and the oil companies for effective governance of the oil industry.
2. To build our capacities for effective engagement with the state, its agencies and parliament and for monitoring and tracking of the oil industry.
3. To engage with local communities, particularly those immediately affected by the oil find, to share information and manage expectations.

**Private Sector:**

1. To actively engage Government in the development of the local content policy and relevant policies and laws.
2. To pull resources together in order to put itself in readiness to take advantage of opportunities in the emerging sector.

**Media:**

1. The Ghanaian media should actively take up its watchdog role to ensure accountability and transparency of state institutions, oil companies and civil society in the governance of the oil industry.
2. To extend its watchdog role to ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of citizens in the oil producing communities

In follow up to the Convention, RAOs have met and decided to form a platform together with other networks on natural resources to continue advocacy through out 2010.



## ONGOING RAO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Governance

The IDEG and CDD focused on poverty reduction issues, local governance and Public expenditure inflows in the period under review while IEA continued its focus on the implementation of the natural resource conservation strategies and building legitimate regulatory institutions with the capacity to design conservation policies. In its work to promote good governance IDEG worked on on baseline Study on Governance and Civic Participation at the District Level in public policy making, development planning and public accountability.

	The need to strengthen national strategies towards industrialisation of African economies	Research into the determinants of the Output of the Manufacturing industry from 1974 to 2006	Narrow focus of Ghana's current industrialisation policy, which is mainly linked to agro-industry.	There is the need to broaden Ghana's industrialisation strategy to place emphasis on the development of industries such as garments and textiles, pharmaceuticals, book publishing, computer assembly plants and new industries related to the emerging oil and gas industry.	Public – private partnerships in the Manufacturing, Gas and ICT industries, as well as integrated rural development
	The need for strategic policy choices in the management of Ghana's oil revenues	Examination of policy options for managing Ghana's oil revenues, to determine best option for sustainable development	Inadequacy of Ghana's institutional, regulatory, and legislative framework for management of the industry.	The key to minimising the adverse social impacts associated with oil is to ensure transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the operations of the industry	Strengthening of Ghana's State oversight institutions; Establishment of clear regulatory and supervisory policies over the industry; Establishment of policies to encourage investment in the agricultural sector; Long-term development planning in consultation with political parties and civil society.

		Paper advocating for an accountable governance system to be build around the Oil and Gas industry	Inadequacy of Ghana's institutional, regulatory and legislative framework for the management of the Oil and Gas industry	The key to minimising the adverse social impacts associated with oil is to ensure transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the operations of the industry	Strengthen transparency and governance systems in the management of the industry.
IDEG		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
	Local governance reforms	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	<p>Results for development assisted project on tracking public expenditure inflow. This project is a follow up to the teacher absenteeism project conducted by the Centre last year inflow of the Ghana Government's capitation grant to schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Centre trained researchers to conduct field interviews in selected districts</li> <li>• Stakeholders in education were interviewed</li> <li>• Desk research and content analysis were conducted</li> <li>• Draft report is ready for validation</li> </ul>	Preliminary indication from the draft suggests gaps between the national offices and the funds that actually get to the destination. There is also a revelation of non-conforming to the established rules of procurement by the head teachers.	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.	<p>1. There is some indication that the current procedure for procurement at the local level is fraught with head teacher control to the exclusion of the local reps on the PTA. The policy supervisors must institute routine monitoring and checks to ensure conformity to established rules guarding the policy.</p> <p>2. The study stumbled upon some troubling issues with the capitation grants which require revision in order 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.</p> <p>3. It is important that funds are released on time to meet current needs of the schools and also avoid the situation where schools purchase items on credit. This system breeds corruption since head teachers use that as a window to skip procurement formalities.</p>
	Africa Power and Politics Project: identifying justice institutions that work for the poor.	It is a five-year project being financed by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). The project is aimed at	Analysis of field reports is ongoing but preliminary findings indicate that	Generally, the slow pace of adjudication, congestion and frequent adjournments of cases	It is premature at the stage of the research to make proposals for

		<p>identifying and assessing justice delivery institutions that work for the poor and are legitimate and trusted by the people by observing three justice delivery institutions (CHRAJ, Customary Land Secretariat &amp; Magistrate Courts).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Researchers were trained to monitor the 3 institutions in Dormaa Ahenkro in the Brong /Ahafo and Amasaman in the Greater Accra region for a period of 5 months.</li> <li>2. Another set of researchers were again deployed to conduct mass survey of 800 respondents in the 2 districts</li> <li>3. Stakeholders within the 3 institutions were interviewed by CDD officers</li> <li>4. Draft report is being prepared for validation, advocacy and dissemination.</li> </ol>	<p>Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms are highly patronised by the poor and in some institutions more by women.</p>	<p>severely inhibits access to justice for the ordinary citizen undermining the institutionalization of the rule of law. Besides, the opaque processes of court, language, expense make the courts intimidating and tend to alienate the poor in society. It is therefore important to identify alternative ways of developing legitimate, trusted speedy, user friendly and inexpensive adjudication processes.</p>	<p>reform. A preliminary proposal will be available in June 2010.</p>
	<p>Constitutional Review Project: contributing to the national review process and</p>	<p>The Centre started a series of lectures during the reporting period to sensitize the public to actively get involved in the constitutional review process. Other activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Launch lecture delivered by Prof. Kwesi Prempeh of Seton Hall University, USA on constitutionalism</li> <li>2. First meeting of the CDD Constitutional Review project Advisory Team made up of about 20 advisor distinguished Ghanaians</li> </ol> <p>In the coming months the Centre will intensify research and advocacy programs and establish a civil society coalition.</p>	<p>There are several concerns that have been raised about the 1992 constitution, including; the excessive powers and discretion of the Executive and particularly the President, the weak system of checks and balance, weak protection of economic and civil rights, strengthening decentralization and others. These weaknesses in the constitution continue to fuel patronage politics, corruption and undermine institution inimical to the efforts of the state to respond the needs of citizens, particularly the poor in society.</p>	<p>Overcoming governance challenges in the fourth republic is critical to the realisation of Ghana's development goal to become a middle income country by 2015. Unfortunately, some of the current governance challenges lie in constitutional design and it is expected that this project will complement the work of state constitutional review body to be set up by government to address the governance deficits in the constitution.</p>	<p>The proposal coming of the project would be developed and submitted at the end of the project in 2011.</p>

	HIV/AIDS Anti Stigmatization & Human Rights Project: sensitizing the public against the stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS	<p>This is a two-year project with financial support from the USAID to sensitize Ghanaians against any form of discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS. Activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.drafting of Q&amp;A on rights of people with HIV/AIDS</li> <li>2. Organizing training workshops for senior and semi-senior staff of the prisons, police &amp; the Judicial services.</li> <li>3.assisting the services to develop work place policies on HIV/AIDS</li> <li>4. Development of education manuals on HIV/AIDS for public education against stigmatization.</li> </ol>	<p>The workshops generated interesting debates and brought so many anomalies in the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients at work places to fore. For example, the prisons did not have a policy of HIV testing for inmates even though they admitted sexual activities go on in prisons. Almost all the three institution did not have working policies and education programs on HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>In order to address substantively the issues of stigmatization and to assert the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, there is an urgent need to provide a more positive enabling environment for those living with the disease to access public services vital for their survival and participation in society. Institutionalised discrimination perpetuated by public agencies undermines and constraints the efforts of the fight against HIV/AIDS and violates the rights of persons living with the disease.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instituting working and education policies in the services. Police and the prisons services have formulated these policies and have submitted to the junior ranks for their inputs, they will subsequently send it up for legal backing.</li> <li>2. The judicial service has since the workshops organized sensitization training for its members.</li> <li>3. it is important for people living with HIV/AIDS to know their rights both within country and at their work places. CDD-Ghana and the coalition members have designed sensitization and education manuals for this purpose.</li> </ol>
	Underlying Causes and Poverty Trends in Ghana	<p>This project was a short term consultancy work undertaken by the Centre for CARE Gulf of Guinea, West Africa for their strategic review meeting. The following activities were undertaken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. conduct desk research into the causes and trends of poverty in Ghana</li> <li>2. propose recommendations based on the 3-year CARE Strategic Action Plan</li> <li>3. submit a report to CARE Gulf of Guinea</li> <li>4. Make a presentation on the report at the CARE strategic review meeting</li> </ol>	<p>The Centre analysed poverty in Ghana over a fifteen year period. Besides the economic indicators, the study assessed education, health as well as water and sanitation as indicators of poverty. The study also assessed the rights of women in Ghana and the roles of civil society in Ghana</p>	<p>In spite of the various interventions in northern Ghana especially, poverty is still persistent.</p> <p>Socio-cultural factors still hamper attempts at improving the social, economic and political rights of women.</p> <p>The Centre is of the view that civil society actors must coordinate their intervention to have the maximum effect.</p> <p>The rights of women must feature prominently in</p>	<p>The report was successfully presented to staff and partners of CAREGOG in a strategic review meeting.</p> <p>The Centre hopes that the recommendations of the poverty trends analysis would be incorporated into the three-year CAREGOG strategic plan</p> <p>The Centre also hopes that CAREGOG support programs in the West</p>

				poverty alleviation/ reduction strategies.	African sub-region would be enhanced through a better understanding of the underlying causes and trends in poverty in Ghana.
--	--	--	--	--	--

### Anti-corruption

The anti-corruption RAOs focused on transparency issues, with GII looking at corruption at the BASIC School level, weak governance in primary schools. GACC is calling for the strengthening of anti corruption laws, transparent and accountable election of District Chief Executives and Effective Implementation of Whistle blower Act 2006

	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	Poverty and Corruption in Africa	Case Study at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adenkrabi</li> <li>• Quayman</li> <li>• Boi</li> </ul>	Citizens not empowered to demand accountability from their local authorities	Develop pilot activities and tools that directly empower disadvantaged communities in preventing corruption in the use of development resource	Increased participatory decision making empowerment of communities to demand transparency and accountability in water de
	Corruption and leakages in primary education financing  Weak governance in primary education management	Findings and Recommendations from the workshop passed on to GES and MOE authorities	Delays in the release of capitation grant  Weak school governance system  Poor record keeping  Inadequate school infrastructure  Acute shortage of teachers	Need for training of head teachers on planning budgets needs for sensitization of PTA/SMCs on their roles and responsibilities	Strengthen the capacity of PTA's and SMC's in management process  Sensitise PTA, and SMC on their roles and responsibilities  - Circuit supervisors tasked on monitoring implementation of book keeping. Focus will be done to check monitoring by GII  Continuous training of heads on financial management  Prompt release of capitation grant to schools  More engagement with

					makers by stakeholders
	Promoting democracy and good governance through public sensitization activities as a tool for fighting corruption	Follow-up on the past workshops to obtain the impact of the awareness created.  Implement the strategies/views participants bring out to action	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  Government needs to put in more effort and citizens need to demand transparency and accountability from public office holders	Evaluate the impact workshops GII has organ  Strengthen the anti-cor institutions to be more ef  Re-introduce civic educa school curriculum.  Enforce anti-corruption and sanctions
	Improve transparency and accountability in service delivery (TISDA)focus on the Water Sector	Case Study Report on– Nima and Pantang finalised  Desk study report finalised	Inadequate water delivery by communities	Need to improve water delivery Communities must hold service providers accountable	Need to improve water Communities must hold providers accountable
GACC	Monitoring and Effective implementation of anti-corruption laws	Developed Corruption Monitoring Indicators based on need for building a national integrity system. Have embarked on a comprehensive monitoring and data collection from public institutions	A number of Anti-corruption laws face implementation difficulties e.g. the Public Officer Holders (Assets Declaration and Disqualification) Act 1998, Act 550Procurement Act.  Most of these Acts do not have a Subsidiary Legislation  There is reluctance by officials in providing information	Need to advocate for strengthening of public institutions for effective implementation.  The passage of the Right to Information Bill must be fast to allow official information to be released	GACC recom strengthening the law providing subsidiary legis
	Capacity Building of CSO and CBO's 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 Educa anti-corruption at decentralised level
	Investigative journalism and independent media in the fight against corruption	Collected media reportage on issues of transparency and accountability	Limited capacity of journalist to undertake investigative journalism, independence of the media is compromised, politicise major national issues  In adequate follow-ups on stories	Media need to be trained on effective investigative journalism and encouraged to follow up on stories initiated.	To collaborate with National Media Commis build the capacity of jo on investigative reporting  Journalist of the Print should be thought the rel of placing stories of cor in their papers. To do t training workshop have organised in Accra and K

	Transparent and accountable election of District Chief Executives	Monitored & collated media reportage on acts of alleged bribery & corruption during the confirmation of District Chief Executive by Assembly Members and organised three Regional Policy Dialogues in Tamale, Takoradi and Accra	<p>Political corruption is rife at the districts.</p> <p>Very difficult to ascertain the truth as both the giver and receiver are in agreement to corrupt the system</p> <p>The election was affected by allegations of serious bribery</p> <p>There is a disconnect between efficient person and the candidate the masses prefer</p>	<p>Need to explore more transparent and accountable way of appointing the District Chief Executive</p> <p>There is the need to introduce the element of Public Services Commission in vetting the nominees to ensure that a competent person gets the nod to being about efficiency.</p>	<p>An Issues Paper on the Election or Nomination of the District Chief Executive – Options for Promotion of an efficient, transparent and accountable Governance system. This was subsequently used in regional policy dialogues in three regions to critically assess the system and used it as an advocacy tool to influence policy change</p>
	Effective Implementation of Whistle blower Act 2006	<p>Collated the number of reported cases to institutions (ongoing)</p> <p>GACC embarked on consultations and held a dialogue with implementing agencies to assess their processes of implementing the law.</p> <p>Had a roundtable workshop to review the whistle blower amendment bill</p>	<p>Lack of knowledge of the Act</p> <p>Some provisions in the act tend to disclose the identity of the Whistleblower</p> <p>Number of institutions involved in implementation are too many</p> <p>Most institutions have not put in place measures to ensure the receipt of complaints under the act</p>	<p>Government needs to show its commitment to the fight against corruption by ensuring that the right institutions are put in place and resourced to implement the law</p> <p>There is the need to embark on public education on the right procedures to adopt when blowing the Whistle</p>	<p>The whole Act needs to be reviewed for possible amendment.</p> <p>Strengthen anti-corruption institutions</p> <p>Civil society should be resourced to improve on public education on the law.</p> <p>Eventually sourced for funding to embark on a one year project on effective implementation of Act 720.</p> <p>GACC has launched a one year project to embark on effective implementation of the Act</p> <p>GACC is currently developing an advocacy strategy and a citizens guide on blowing</p>

## Human Rights

The active human rights RAOs are CEPIL, LRC, and MFWA.

	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
CEPIL	Residential Landlords and Tenants	Baseline Study of Rent Control Department	Inadequate protection for Tenants	There is the need to build the capacity of the rent control officers to better administer the Rent Act.	The need for a review of the Rent Act of 1962
	Housing	The right to housing	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.
	Land Rights	Conducting research on land rights in Ghana	Taking community lands for the utilization of natural resources without the payment of compensation	Research is ongoing.	Payment of compensation for all lands required for the utilization of mineral resources.
CEPIL	Residential Landlords and Tenants	Baseline Study of Rent Control Department	Inadequate protection for Tenants	There is the need to build the capacity of the rent control officers to better administer the Rent Act.	The need for a review of the Rent Act of 1962
	Housing	The right to housing	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.
LRC	Gaps in human rights policy formulation in Ghana	Advanced study and Research conducted by Executive Director at the Weather head Centre for International Affairs, Harvard University	Parliamentary Committees have not demonstrated capacity to hold the bureaucracy in check for the delivery of public goods	Build capacity of Parliamentary Committees to effectively engage the bureaucracy and civil society for the provision of public goods	Work directly with key committees of Parliament including the Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, the Defence and Interior, Children and Women, Social Welfare, Women, Finance and the Research Department of Parliament for effective

					engagement with the bureaucracy
	Legal and operational problems with National Health Insurance Act	Field research and desk review conducted by a team of students and professors from the Harvard School of Law, Harvard School of Public Health, and the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana	Undue delay between the registration of members of the Health Insurance Schemes and the delivery of membership cards; Non payment to service providers of the real cost borne in service provision; higher cost of health care in Health Insurance schemes as opposed to the cash and carry; non-involvement of key local stakeholders in the resolution of problems confronting the schemes	Overhaul the scheme; make provisional identification cards (ID) available for use to members yet to receive their IDs; streamline payment system as they relate to service providers; develop monitoring systems to check corruption in the implementation of the health insurance scheme	Detailed review of the law as has been commissioned by government
	Non implementation of the Mental Health Decree	Desk review of decree carried out	Minister for Health is required under the Decree to establish Visiting Committees composed of persons including a Magistrate; Minister is required to establish a Mental Health Tribunal for the review of the cases of inmates of the Psychiatric hospitals.	The non compliance with the decree has led to the violations of the human rights of the inmates of the psychiatric hospitals	Compliance with the Mental Health decree while awaiting the passage of the new mental health bill
	Non compliance with Occupational Health and safety standards in Ghana	Conduct detailed research on occupational health and safety issues occurring in violation of the Labour Act of Ghana and International Labour Organization standards of occupational safety	On-going	On-going	On-going
MFWA	Research on Right to Information in Ghana	MFWA in collaboration with a Lagos-based advocacy organisation conducted a comprehensive audit of all laws in Ghana to identify inherent clauses which give citizens access to information held by government bodies as well as those which prohibit, inhibit and constrain access.	Although public institutions have access to information, this is not the case for citizens since there is no proactive legislation obliging public officials to give info to the public.	Since public institutions and public officers are only obliged to give information through periodic reports to parliaments it means that the public must go to parliament to request the information. This is too cumbersome, thus making it even more imperative that a RTI law is passed	Passage of a RTI is most crucial at this point in time.
	Ghana Media Standards Improvement	Survey of Ghana media habits.	The findings of the survey exposed current challenges in the media landscape in the country.	Training for managers of media houses is a critical need for all sectors of media.	In-situ training and instituting awards for best practices. MFWA has therefore instituted such awards for rural radio stations to encourage excellence in radio

					programming at the community level, considering the great potential of radio for development and empowerment of the rural population.
	Study/Publication on Libel Cases in Ghana	A study on libel cases against Ghanaian media initially done for the period 2001 to 2006 – now updated to cover '07 & '08	The study is basically aimed at finding out the number and nature of libel cases against media since the repeal of the criminal libel law in 2001 and examine what category of personalities were the commonest complainants. It will be published in the first half of 2010.	The repeal of the criminal libel law was most timely and also has not resulted in any significant misuse of media freedom.	these
	A study on Election 2008 and Media Rights Violations: the Ghana Experience	It is an initiative to document the various experiences encountered by journalists in covering Ghana's historic elections of December 2008.	The results of the study	There is the need to promote experiential learning within the civil society community through such publications.	
	Publication: MFWA – A Decade of Advocacy for Press Freedom & Freedom of Expression in West Africa	MFWA's 10 years work has been marked by consistent monitoring of free expression violations and developments in the media in West Africa.	There is limited documentation of institutional building experiences in Ghana that can be shared within the civil society community		MFWA's work has produced quality reports, publications, press releases, communiqués and other documentation that have proved useful to free expression and human rights advocates globally

## 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 continued to research into land issues as it affects women and the property right of spouse bill. ABANTU on women in governance and gender and climate change, while GSDRC and ARK addressed HIV aids issues.

	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	Analysis of Affirmative Action for Women's Participation in Decision Making	Lack of political will towards affirmative action despite commitments by Executive  Inadequate assessment of the issue in relation to the political system currently practiced in Ghana	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	Executive to institute committee to take forward debate on affirmative action.  Analysis available for use by GoG.
	Property Rights of Spouses Bill	Position paper on Bill developed by WiLDAF	Bill has new areas that require further expatiation based on experiences in other jurisdictions. E.g. Pre-nuptial agreements; Recognition of Cohabitation; distribution of property in polygamous marriages	GoG has to subject the provisions in the Bill to consultations nationwide	2009 revision of the Bill has new provisions. Bill undergoing consultations by 2 NGOs (LAWA Ghana and AWLA). WiLDAF has given its position paper to the NGOs to include in their consultations
	Women and Land	Research on women's access to land in Ga West and Dangme East Districts.	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.  Land owners will not give land to a woman for economic activities unless she is accompanied by her husband or male relative  Urbanisation of the Ga West District leading to loss of economic activities for women because land given out for residences	Women's access to land should cover securing title and inheritance rights being respected.  Traditional leaders and land owners educated to realise that women can access land for economic activities in own right without a male.	WiLDAF is using women and men from these two districts to effect changes in relationships between them and husbands; and them and land owners.  WiLDAF to publish process of registering land in brochures for distribution  GoG will have to work with traditional councils to effect necessary changes to customary

					practices in line with government land policy. WILDAF was invited by the Dagme East District Assembly in December 2009 to talk to assembly persons on gender mainstreaming. We used the opportunity to share information on the project and called on the Assembly to work with traditional leaders to address challenges relating to women and land; and women and decision making.
ABANTU	Promoting Women in Governance	Research on Affirmative Action completed and document produced for publication	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 policies	Gender responsive media policies Continuous engagement and alliance building between women's groups and ABANTU
	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	Representation of women and men in formal employment	Huge disparities exist against women's employment	Deepen the work in this area	Deepen the work in this area
ARK	3. The State's preparedness to implement the DV Act.	<p>Second phase of the monitoring research was conducted in Greater Accra, Ashanti and Northern Regions.</p> <p>Research activities included</p> <p>Monitoring through observation and interviews, the handling of complaints by DOVVSU, DSW, Courts &amp; Health Institutions in terms of promptness, expressions of prejudice or disrespect, thoroughness in recording details and general level of cooperation with complaints. This was to ascertain the level of impact of the monitoring exercise on the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.</p> <p>Monitored the administration of trials of cases of VAW/DV</p> <p>Monitored inter-agency work, referrals and cooperation between these agencies.</p>	The second phase of the research focused on identifying the level of improvement in logistics by all the four institutions previously monitored.	The organization seeks to identify the challenges involved in implementing the DV Act.	<p>The findings of The monitoring exercise will be</p> <p>Published into Policy Advocacy briefs and</p> <p>Disseminated to Governments, Departments, Agencies, Ministries, Civil Society organizations, Stakeholders etc to be updated with the status of the implementation of the DV law.</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	After leading the process of drafting of guidelines on DV/VAW, the document is yet to be pre-tested and validated by the leadership of some selected	The Ark hopes to present the final document to Church Councils in Ghana for

			Against Women.	churches before the final document is printed	adoption. The document will finally be launched in July.
	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> :  To assess the content and relevance of training topics, facilitation and workshop dynamics through the 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Alumnae Conference organized in November, 2009 at the Institute of Local Government	The position of The Ark was to ascertain the impact of our gender equality work with young women in different areas of their lives: socially, politically, Socio-culturally, economically etc.	Participants' evaluation forms indicated that: there was an improved method for monitoring alumnae contributions to women's empowerment and gender equality work.
	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 a collaborated front to access big funding	The Ark in collaboration with WRO's are considering the setting up of a secretariat/a fund to enable them access bigger funds or engage in income generating activities	The Ark together with WROs will engage in a lot of meetings and consultations 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	There is lack of coordination among government sponsored agencies and NGO's working in the area of HIV/AIDS.  There is also the absence of a comprehensive intervention to address stigmatisation regarding the People Living With HIV/AIDS.	Our position is to assess the understanding of participants on HIV/AIDS in the community and to address the symptoms and myths surrounding HIV/AIDS in the community.	There should be coordination among service providers and also the interventions available should take into account the needs of various groups of people living with HIV/AIDS i.e. (those in the rural/urban, the old/young).  The Ark hopes to assess the interventions made by government and NGO's and address

					the gaps.
FIDA	1. Promoting the rights of women infected and affected with HIV/Aids.	Research activities have already been carried out, & findings disseminated to the targeted areas policy dialogues have also been conducted to generate important recommendations to contribute to the determination of policy formulation and changes regarding the rights of women infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in Ghana.	<p>The research and policy dialogues identified</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legal limitations to do with intentional transmission of HIV/Aids</li> <li>2. Ambiguity of Ghana's Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651). The act does not expressly stipulate what employers must do in cases where employees are infected by the HIV. This ambiguity must be cleared on the responsibilities of employers towards affected persons living with HIV and AIDS</li> </ol> <p>No structured training in curricula of staff of govt agencies i.e. Social welfare, and law enforcement agencies, DOVVSU to handle HIV/Aids infected and affected women.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Lack of supportive structures for Care givers.</li> <li>4. Access to justice for HIV/AIDS on Women's Property and Inheritance Rights</li> <li>5. The lack of laws on the rights of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS.</li> </ol>	FIDA believes that supportive systems for HIV infected and affected women are weak, and these women need to be encouraged to access the services of the court.	<p>At the policy dialogues and dissemination meetings alternative policy issues proposed include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to Justice and Protection of Property Rights</li> </ol> <p>Women living with or affected by HIV/AIDS should be provided with adequate and special opportunities to access justice, through the creation of special courts, police units and legal aid points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Integration of Human Rights Approaches into National Strategies</li> </ol> <p>The element of the protection of human rights and the principles of gender equality under the National HIV/AIDS Policy should be fully recognized protected and implemented and fully integrated into national HIV/AIDS</p>

					<p>reduction strategies and activities.</p> <p>3. Establish HIV/AIDS Human Rights Protection Monitoring Mechanism</p> <p>The capacity of civil society to be strengthened to monitor mechanisms specific stigmatization, gender inequality and abuse of human rights within the context of HIV/AIDS</p> <p>4. Campaigns and Awareness Raising Against Stigmatization</p> <p>Development and implementation of extensive education and sensitization programmes targeted toward community leaders and traditional rulers to raise awareness of women's rights to equality and nondiscrimination within the context of HIV/AIDS particularly in the area of land and property rights.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

					<p>5. Disclosure and Confidentiality The government should make arrangements for court hearings involving HIV and AIDS affected persons to be heard in camera as long as it's not a criminal case. Concerning medical confidentiality, the government should consider amending its policies on HIV/AIDS to include a waiver in circumstances which will result in transmission of the disease to the spouse. Specific guidelines should be</p> <p>6. Employment, Women and HIV/AIDS</p> <p>The gap in the Labour Act will have to be closely looked at. An amendment of the Labour Act to cover HIV/AIDS related issues will be necessary in order promote the rights of employers and employees and also hold employers who discriminate against employees as a result of their status accountable.</p> <p>7. Legislation</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

					Against Stigmatisation There is the need for a separate legislation that will prosecute perpetrators of acute forms of stigmatization and discrimination against PLWA. This will act as a deterrent to prospective abusers while boosting the confidence of PLWA.
GSHRDC	Mainstreaming gender into key national HIV and AIDs policies and National Strategic Framework III (2011 – 2015) of the Ghana Aids Commission (GAC) to reduce the prevalence rate among women.	Desk review to identify gaps in NSF II (2006 -2010) and gender sensitive interventions funded by GAC.	The review revealed the following:  1) though the NSF II makes a fairly good analysis of the link between HIV/AIDS and gender, the NSF II lacks gender specific goals, objectives, outcomes and indicators which casts doubt over its commitment to addressing the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS, and make it difficult for implementers to work towards a specific target and measure progress in gender equality.  2) There are no specific and comprehensive gender responsive strategies to tackle gender related factors that influence the spread and impact of the epidemic.  3) The NSF II and its programmes of work do not specifically require	Our position is that gender must be properly mainstreamed into the National HIV/AIDS Policy and the National Strategic Framework NFS III being developed for 2011 -2015.  Such a policy change will lead to GAC setting criteria for gender component of grant applications.	A policy brief containing the above recommendations is being prepared and will be presented to the Minister of justice, Chief justice & minister of Women and Children Affairs. Ghana Aids commission etc.

			<p>implementing ministries, agencies and other partners to mainstream gender into their HIV/AIDS programmes.</p> <p>4) There are no initiatives that employ multiple strategies to address combined factors of gender norms, violence and low socio-economic status which predispose women to HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>5) Allocation of funds is based on the 7 thematic areas making it difficult to trace funds allocated to tackle the link between gender and HIV/AIDS.</p>		
	<p>Reducing Women's Susceptibility to HIV infection due to patriarchal attitudes and gender norms in Ghana</p>	<p>a) The Centre finalized, published and disseminated its research findings on Gender Norms, Domestic Violence and women's Vulnerability to HIV and AIDs to key stakeholders at a launch in Accra September 9 2009 at the KAMA Conference Centre.</p> <p>b) A dissemination workshop was also organized in Kumasi on October 21, 2009 for civil society actors in the country who are into HIV and AIDs programming to improve their knowledge on the socio-cultural factors like gender norms which fuel HIV infection.</p>	<p>Gender dimension of HIV and AIDs in Ghana is not being addressed sufficiently. Moreover, HIV prevention strategies used by the Government of Ghana and many NGOs continue to focus on the "ABC" approach (abstinence, being faithful and condom use). This approach is widely accepted as simplistic in relation to understanding the issues of gender inequality and women's rights and does not address the differential ability of women and men to adhere to the 3 principles. The strategy</p> <p>Also limits the extent to which women have full control over their bodies and can therefore mitigate the likelihood of being infected with the virus.</p>	<p>Our position is that gender must be properly mainstreamed into the National HIV/AIDS Policy and the National Strategic Frame work NFS III being developed for 2011 -2015.</p> <p>The findings of the research should be disseminated widely and used as a prevention strategy in order to reduce the rising prevalence levels of HIV and AIDs among women in Ghana.</p>	<p>All HIV and Aids projects must have a component that addresses the gender norms in our society that make women vulnerable as identified in the study.</p> <p>Secondly, gender must be made a criterion for funding HIV and Aids projects by the Ghana Aids Commission and other development agencies.</p> <p>Women as well as men should specifically be targeted with information on HIV modes of transmission and</p>

					<p>prevention as well as practices that could make them susceptible to HIV infection</p> <p>We are advocating for bye laws to ban widow inheritance as this practice was found as one area of increasing the spread of HIV infection among women.</p>
		<p>c) Baseline survey have been conducted on levels of knowledge of HIV transmission, condom usage and attitudes towards gender, HIV and AIDS in 3 communities which are Papasi in the Kadjebi District, Nsokwoa in the Koforidua Municipality and Manwe in the Wa East District.</p> <p>d) 5 radio dramas on violence and HIV/AIDs have been recorded for airing in English, Twi, Ewe and Waali. for national awareness-raising.</p> <p>e) The research information has also been used to design and produce 6 different types of posters to be distributed to CSOs, NGOs, etc for advocacy.</p>	<p>Baseline studies on knowledge and attitudes towards HIV/AIDs, gender norms, violence and condom usage conducted in 3 communities indicated high knowledge among respondents on modes of transmission. The study also revealed that age at first sexual intercourse is quite low as well as knowledge on gender norms fuelling the spread of HIV. The studies were conducted in Papasi in the Kadjebi District, Nsokwoa in the Koforidua Municipality and Manwe in the Wa Municipality.</p>	<p>Gender norms are preventing women from learning more about the virus and also seeking treatment.</p> <p>Women should be empowered to negotiate for condom usage even within marriage to protect themselves from promiscuous partners.</p> <p>These gender norms are not being addressed nor are policy makers and the general population aware that they are factors that increase women's vulnerability to HIV. Public awareness raising campaigns should continue to empower women to protect themselves.</p>	<p>Education is on-going in the 3 communities on the modes of HIV transmission and prevention. The education is also tackling cultural practices/gender norms fuelling HIV infection to encourage people change their attitudes and empower women through promoting and protection of rights.</p> <p>Prevention work on HIV and Aids should address the issues identified in the research.</p>
	Addressing The Gender Related aspect of HIV and AIDS	Sensitizing communities on women's rights, gender norms that make women vulnerable to HIV as well as ST infections, modes of transmission and prevention in 2 districts (Dangme West and East) in the Greater Accra region.	Baseline information from pre-implementation meetings showed low knowledge of the gender norms that make women vulnerable to HIV infection. It also indicated that though there are PEP	Our position is that until women's rights issues as well as patriarchal attitudes are addressed women will continuously be disproportionately infected with	Attention should be given to women's rights and socio-cultural factors fuelling the spread of HIV. The Ghana Health Service

		40 community volunteers have been trained for this purpose.	services available to medical staff to prevent HIV infection in the course of discharging their duties should any accident occur, this service is not extended to most at risk populations like victims of rape and sexual abuse.	HIV.  Our position is that the Ghana Health Service should make PEP services for non medical staff a policy to be implemented nation-wide.	should implement PEP services nation-wide through a policy direction.
	Reducing Violence against Women in Ghana	a) The Centre published a book titled "The architecture of violence against women in Ghana" as part of its work to deepen knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin and sustain violence against women.	The findings point out to the impact of violence against women and some of the critical areas to be addressed in responding to violence against women.	The contents of the book will be widely disseminated.	We are advocating for the implementation of the DV Act.

## Social and Economic Justice

SEND Foundation reported working on the agriculture budget tracking in relation with Smallholder Agricultural Development, ISODEC continued on public expenditure accountability, NGND worked on the district assembly common fund allocation while TWN worked on mining royalties.

	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	Smallholder Agriculture Development	Agricultural Budget Tracking	<p>1. The research indicated that government, on the average, has allocated 9% of national budgetary resources on agriculture between 2003 and 2008. However, that increased expenditure has not culminated into the expected corresponding growth rate in the sector.</p> <p>2. Average total national budget spent on investment in agriculture for the period 2003 -2008 is 47% as</p>	There is the need to target smallholder agricultural development for special financial scheme/ budgetary allocations backed by separate financial management systems	<p>1. Government should establish a special investment fund and specific budgetary allocations for only smallholder agricultural development.</p> <p>2. Government should aim to build the production capacity of the smallholder farmers</p>

			<p>compared to 53% for recurrent expenditure. This indicates under investment in agricultural development.</p> <p>3. The research found disparities in budgetary allocations to the disadvantage of major food crop producing areas.</p> <p>4. Lack of access to irrigation facilities, unaffordable fertilizer prices, and exorbitant user fees for tractor services, limited access to credit and inadequate access to extension services continue to undermine the productivity of smallholder farmers. It is also indicative of the fact that increased national level expenditure has not trickled down to improve smallholder agricultural development as expected.</p>		<p>into medium and large scale production through the judicious use of subsidies.</p> <p>Government should develop a policy framework that guarantees sustainable support to smallholder farmers in order to move them up the value chain.</p> <p>3. Civil society organisations must take the issue of agricultural budget tracking as an entry point to demanding accountability from state actors.</p>
ISODEC	Public Expenditure and Accountability transparency	Examining the expenditure allocation to Education, Health and water sectors  Programme budget analysis and benefit incidence analysis in education, health and water	<p>Government programmes are not pro poor</p> <p>Government spending in education and health is focus on salary</p> <p>Government expenditure per person for rural water is far below that of urban water</p>	<p>Government to promote pro poor spending</p> <p>Increase investment in education and health infrastructure in poorer areas</p>	<p>Changing the compositing of expenditure toward favouring the poor</p> <p>Provision of social services should be geared towards universal provision</p> <p>Sensitisation of critical stakeholders to assert their rights and holding government responsible at all levels</p>
TWN	Mining royalties	review of Ghana's royalty law	Low levels of royalties	Royalties should increase	

NGND	District Assemblies Common Fund Allocation to MMDAs	Percentage of DACF allocations that actually reach MMDAs in northern Ghana	No ceiling on what amount of DACF allocation can be spent on behalf of MMDAs at the national level	All allocation to MMDAs should be sent to the MMDAs	Parliament needs to put a ceiling of not more than 5% of each MMDAs allocation that can be spent on their behalf at the national level
	Effective National Decentralization	Challenges of Effective Decentralization in northern Ghana	Lack of adequate qualified human resources for effective decentralization	Technical expertise available for use by MMDAs in northern Ghana	Organize National short term volunteers to offer services to deprived MMDAs of northern Ghana
	Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)	Public sensitization on the operations of the MCA program	Limited participation of 5 selected MMDAs in MCA program in northern region	Selected MMDAs should actively participate and take advantage of the MCA program	Public sensitization in 5 selected MMDAs through three periodic meetings

GII has successfully completed the review of its five year strategic plan. This new strategic plan has been 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.

GII successfully celebrated its 10 years anniversary of being the only NGO in Ghana fully dedicated to anti-corruption. GII, 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’.

GACC’s media monitoring project has challenged journalist to focus more on investigative journalism. The project led to collaboration with the Media Foundation for West Africa Media which has given journalist an orientation to be able to source funding to work on investigative journalism. GACC has signed an MOU with the Ghana Business Code to work together in the implementation of the UN Global compact Principle 10. Also the work of GACC has attracted the Commonwealth Business Council to work with the Coalition to develop a program on working with Businesses in Ghana to build collective action against corruption. GACC’s work with Parliament through the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament has deepened the working relationship with the Committee’s Leadership.

GACC also was able to secure funding of £ 40,000 from the British High Commission to embark on an educational programme on effective implementation of Whistleblower Act 720. GACC’s Regional Policy Dialogue project on election or nomination of DCEs has been one of the key

institutions contacted for input into the National Consultative Dialogue on the review of Ghana's Decentralisation Policy.

The National Anti-Corruption Action Plan developed by GACC in 2001 has been taken on board by the state and is undergoing a National Review with GACC Working Committees. The Coalition press statements and comments on specific issues such as the Maybey and Johnson case were taken by the government with investigations handed over to CHRAJ and the resignation of public officers named in the scandal. GACC has also been nominated to serve on the Grievance Committee of the Millennium Development Authority in Ghana. The Committee made up of Government Agencies such as AMA, Ghana Highway Authority, Traders Association, MIDA representative is working to resolve conflicts between MIDA and affected persons on the corridor as a result of the construction of the highway.

### **Governance**

IDEG worked with other steering committee members and zonal representatives for the successful implementation of the network's Capacity Development and knowledge sharing Workshops on the local governance system in Ghana. Four different workshops were held across the nation over a 2-week period. The reports from these workshops were drafted into a position paper to be reviewed and presented at the National Stakeholders meeting on the review of the decentralization system in Ghana. IDEG as the secretariat of the National Consultative Group (NCG) of the NGO Bill and acting on the recommendations of the Working Group of the NCG in February 2009 took a step in commissioning the production of a model NGO legislation or draft bill. Two Consultants at the University of Ghana (Professors Kumado and Quashigah) have been commissioned to draft a model NGO legislation that could serve as an alternative to the framework proposed in the Trust Bill (revised in 2008)

As a result of the IEA's Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP ) a Constitutional Review Committee has been set up by the government. The DCSP has been referred to extensively in the Proposal on the Constitutional Review presented by the Attorney General to Cabinet. Indeed all twenty proposals highlighted in the DCSP as requiring reform were taken on board. This Committee has been constituted along the lines of The IEA's recommendation for a multi-partisan Constitutional Review Committee. The Institute's Executive Director is represented on the Commission.

The IEA's Transition bill has been presented to Cabinet by the Attorney General and approved by Cabinet for on ward passage to Parliament. It is significant to note that for the second time the President mentioned in his State of The Nation Address in indicated that The IEA Ghana Political Parties Programme is the surest way to reconciling the Nation.

The CDD's HIV/AIDS anti stigmatization project chalked major successes in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS anti-stigmatization in the Prison service where their guidelines have been developed into a policy to have the requisite institutional and legal backing and the Police service where a policy proposal has been submitted on issues relating to commercial sex workers, sexual assault victims, the administration of PEP; access of sex workers to health care etc

Also, seminars have been organized for the staff of the Judicial Service of the service particularly magistrates and circuit court judges who run family courts to sensitize them on the human rights of people with HIV/AIDS and how to avoid stigmatizing these people. An incident was reported where

a person infected with HIV was prevented from entering a courtroom by a judge but made to give evidence via microphone while standing outside. The coalition condemned such actions in the presence of senior staff of the service. This also informed the coalition's decision to develop Q&A and manuals on the rights of people in general and those with HIV/AIDS in particular.

## **Peace Building**

During the period under review, WANEP's advocacy on the need for peace and development to be an integral part of policy formulation received some hearing but the results in terms of their concrete translation into national policies for peace and development has not yet materialised. Although peace in Bawku and Dagbon remain fragile, WANEP's contribution to peace in these areas remain a landmark achievement. The success story becomes even easier to assess amongst the Nkonya-Alavanyo communities where WANEP's contribution to the peace building process there has been most significant and continuous to be greatly appreciated.

### **6.1 RAO PERCEPTION OF THEIR INFLUENCE ON POLICY**

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 reporting RAOs believe that there is a positive perception. 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. 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 and legitimacy of WANEP as a Peace building Organisation has been sustained to higher levels. WANEP's analysis and response options for conflicts in Ghana are viewed seriously. GoG through the Ministry of Interior has sought WANEP views in developing policy options. An evidence of this is the acceptance to provide spaces for dialogue by conflict parties. In Bawku, the Regional Coordinating Council set up an Inter-Ethnic Committee of all ethnic groups in Bawku to talk and mutually resolve outstanding issues of conflict in the Municipality. The general public has a high regard for WANEP and such positive public image increased tremendously after the December 2008 general elections. WANEP's role in a peaceful general election has been very much appreciated.

## **Socio-Economic Development**

SEND is of the opinion that RAOs have gained more credibility and legitimacy in Ghana. CSOs are welcome at almost all major events in the country. One practical example is the recent national forum on the SADA where the Office of the Vice President/ SADA Secretariat collaborated with

SEND to plan and organise the event. The Vice President, in his address at the forum, acknowledged that both government and civil society organisations shared common concerns on issues that SADA seeks to address. Also, MDAs participate and provide feedback on PM&E findings during the launch of SEND-Ghana's participatory monitoring and evaluation reports which hitherto was not the case.

The National Development Planning Commission included SEND-Ghana in the review process of the draft national monitoring and evaluation manual for MDAs in Ghana. This and other past activities such as the active participation of civil society (in its own rights) in the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and UNCTAD XII can be cited as examples of improved credibility and legitimacy of civil society in Ghana. Ghana's Development Partners (DPs) involved SEND in the recent review of the Ghana Joint Assistance Strategy (G-JAS). Recognition by stakeholders manifests in forms of invitation extended to the RAOs by government to participate in policy discourse and creating platforms for RAOs to interact with Government and MDAs. For example:

- ISODEC was invited to serve on the board of Local Government
- The Ministry of Finance granted the opportunity to make a presentation on Tax reforms in Ghana
- Based on the recommendation of the Ministry of Finance, ISODEC was consulted for inputs into the annual IMF consultation on the economy of Ghana

## **Governance**

Examples of a more open governance process include the opening up of the budget making process to CSOs. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning has since 2005 requested 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.

The media in particular demonstrates a lot of confidence in RAOs, often calling on them for expert analysis of new items. Within the last 6 months the IDEG'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.

Credibility of RAO's continues to grow as Government continues to acknowledge the value addition of the work of RAO's. The IEA's recommendation for a Constitutional Review, as contained in the Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper, is being implemented. The IEA's Transition Bill has been presented to Cabinet for onward passage to Parliament, with its content and substance largely intact.

The IEA was invited by Parliament to receive an award for its efforts at building and deepening Parliamentary democracy in Ghana.

Years of advocacy culminated in the incorporation of many RAOs campaign issues into the ruling party's manifesto. 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 unprogressive drafts of the NGO/Trust Bill and the protracted negotiations with the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment still persists.

## **Anti Corruption**

Government sees CSOs as key institutions in the public policy space and as development partners. The government and Ghana public therefore recognise the need for CSOs to embark on public education campaigns against corruption. Government also now acts upon findings of RAOs research. For instance GACC's call on government to refer the Maybe & Johnson case to CHRAJ, which was adhered to..GII reports 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 is also indicative of political will to ensure transparency.

## **Gender and Women's Rights**

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. 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.

(A number of representatives from RAOs have also been nominated onto boards and committees by GoG. NGOs are on the Board for the Domestic Violence Act; and Board of the Law Reform Commission.

FIDA is respected as one that speaks with a uniquely objective voice independent of either governmental or business interests. Evidence of this resulted in FIDA being approached by Family Health International, (FHI) an International NGO working all over the world to reduce HIV transmission among most at risk population to collaborate in a joint proposal to be submitted to USAID. FHI actually selected FIDA based on its independence and systems and structures which make it a credible organisation.

Further evidence of the organisation's credibility and legitimacy is an invitation from CDD-Ghana for FIDA to serve as a member of the Project Advisory Team established to oversee the CDD-Ghana National Constitutional Reform Project which seeks to input into the current constitutional review process..

The patronage of FIDA's legal aid services by women and the constant referrals from government officials and ministries is ample evidence of FIDA's capacity in providing useful legal assistance to ensure that children are maintained, families are kept together, and women's property rights are secured with the ultimate goal of improving the status of women.

## **Human Rights Organisations**

The select Committee of Parliament on Legal, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs requested the CEPIL to assist in the organisation of a one day stakeholder conference on the Property Rights of Spouses Bill. The successes of the MFWA and other RAOs indicate very clearly the growing importance and significance of the role and work of civil society in Ghana and the sub region at large. In recognition of its influence, the Organisation has been invited by the Carter Centre in Atlanta – Georgia, USA to be its local partner in organizing the first Africa Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information in Accra in February 2010. The conference will jointly be opened by former US President Jimmy Carter and Ghana's Vice-President. MFWA's work is of crucial importance in the consolidation of press freedom, and freedom of expression generally

### **7.1 Grant Management**

As part of the plan to sustain and improve the performance of RAOs, G-RAP organised a training session on finance and narrative reporting in the last semester. This was as a result of an assessment that revealed some short comings In RAO reports. The current reports submitted indicate clearly progress in the reporting. Grantees expressed different opinions with the G-rap management system. For instance, GACC believes that the G-RAP PMT is available to respond to issues of concern quickly. Others feel that there is the opportunity for grantees to share information and learn from one another through G-RAP. However there is the need for cross learning and sharing of information among grantees. The main PMT challenge has been late reporting by some RAOs. Measures employed to curtail this is holding of disbursements until full reporting requirements are met. Going forward RAOs may risk losing grants if they report late.

### **8.1 Conclusion**

Reports show some significant improvement over the previous semesters in the provision of more specific information. RAOs continued to report on organisational development processes like governance, financial management, funding base development and human resource base with reference to changes in the reporting period.

Some staff movements and replacements were mentioned by some of the RAOs during the period under review. For instance two programme staff recruited by ABANTU in the early part of the year benefitted from a number of training opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of gender and policy issues.

In the next reporting period, the PMT plans to support RAO gender mainstreaming and for RAOs to have clear M&E plans to guide their implementation processes in order to support the G-RAP goal. Also reports will endeavour to report against outputs and indicators as outlined in the new G-RAP log frame.