

ANNEX 5: NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**Six-Month and Annual Reporting**

version 50622

General information	
Name of the Organisation: CENTRE FOR POLICY ANALYSIS	Contract Ref. No.: 01/CORE/12/CEPA
Report Prepared by: GENEVIEVE EBA-POLLEY Signature:	Report Period: JULY-DEC 2005
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1. What changes did you see in pro-poor government policies (in design, implementation or review)? How did such change come about and what is your interpretation of the changes?

The GPRS and the HIPC Initiative are indicative of government's commitment to formulate and implement pro-poor policies. The commitment is laudable but more attention must be paid to implementation. For example, with the District Assembly Common Fund, utilisation of funds is determined to a large extent by guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. It turns out that 40-50% of funds available to districts are earmarked in this way. While earmarking ensures that government priorities are met, it means that the amount of discretionary funds available may limit the ability of the districts to meet district level specific priorities.

There is the need to maintain a consistent classification of poverty reduction spending in order to ensure transparency in assessment of poverty reduction spending efforts.

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2. Collaboration and networking

2.1 Indicate changes or progress in your working relations with the Parliament, Government Services, MDDBS Partners, Donors, NDPC, District level Authorities or Services etc.

A component of CEPA's Work Programme is capacity building involving government agencies, civil society organisations and institutions. CEPA has been contributing to the work schedules of some of these institutions.

- NEPAD Secretariat – CEPA was commissioned to carry out research on the Economic Governance and Management component of the APRM. Since then the Centre has assisted the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in costing the Programme of Action of the APRM.
- Public Accounts Committee of Parliament – Sponsored by the Canadian Parliamentary Centre, CEPA reviewed and analysed the Auditor-General's Report (2004). The paper presented has been published under CEPA's Selected Issues Series.
- CEPA was invited to prepare a position paper to serve as the key input into the President's official response to the Commission for Africa Report at the G8 meeting in July 2005 at Gleneagles, Scotland.
- CEPA was commissioned by the National Development Planning Commission and the UNDP to research into and compile the first ever District Human Development Reports.
- Community Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS) – A project sponsored by the IDRC and commenced 3 years ago, CEPA has been working with the Dangme West District Assembly to develop the CBMS. This system should inform policy makers on a timely basis of the effects of policies on the standard of living of people at the community level. The system provides communities with simple and easy means to collect poverty indicators to determine the prevailing standard of living and target developmental efforts at them.
- Trade Sector Support Programme – CEPA was commissioned by the Ministry of Trade and Industry to produce a paper on Trade Facilitation as a component in the design of the 5-year Trade Sector Support Programme.

2.2 How has collaboration been strengthened (i.e. joint campaigns, collaboration, networking) with other RAOs / CSOs / CBOs?

CEPA is a research and policy analysis institution and networking and collaborating with other institutions is important. Collaboration has been strengthened through workshops, presentation of papers at workshops and seminars and membership on boards.

- Bridging the North-South Divide in Ghana – Collaborative research with the Overseas Development Institute, U.K., sponsored by DfID. The aim of this project was to identify poverty alleviation measures for Northern Ghana. Workshops were held both in Tamale and Accra to which the Northern Leadership, NGOs and CSOs were invited and research findings were discussed including the way forward.
- Gender and Economic Growth Project – a G-RAP funded project, CEPA is collaborating with the Ghana Statistical Service, National Development Planning Commission and Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs in identifying issues of concern and selecting districts for the survey.
- Trade Facilitation and Ghanaian Competitiveness – CEPA is collaborating with the CEPS, GIS, Freight Forwarding Companies and the private sector to put together recommendations to the Ministry of Trade and Industry on trade facilitation. At a workshop held in October 2005, the first draft of such recommendations was compiled.
- CEPA has often presented keynote addresses at workshops and seminars organised by other institutions and these include the Ghana Investment Promotion Council; The Ghana Statistical Service; World Bank; Christian Council of Ghana, Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and UNDP.
- CEPA’s professional research staff are members of boards including the National Investment Bank, Ghana Commercial Bank, Taysec, Action Aid International (Ghana), Volta River Authority and National Board of Small Scale Industries.

2.3 How has the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public? How did such change come about and what is your interpretation of the changes?

Although it is early yet to say so, the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs has changed for the better. On a personal note, for CEPA, our credibility has improved considering the level of attendance and quality of participants and discussions at our workshops. E.g. Inception Workshop of our Gender, Poverty and Economic Growth Project (October 2005); Bridging the North-South Divide Workshop (July 2005) and Trade Facilitation Workshop (October 2005). Participants included Ministers of State, Members of Parliament, Heads of departments of MDAs, other RAOs and CSOs. This has come about due to the commitment of RAOs to raise issues for constructive discussion and produce credible information for targeted stakeholders and the general public.

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3.1 Output ranking on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered; Please rank the outputs in order of relative success, according to your own appreciation and evaluative judgment				
#	Outputs presented in submitted Workplan	Target groups that received or used the output delivered	Documents describing output delivery	Attached Copy yes/no
1	African Peer Review Mechanism Country Self-Assessment	NEPAD Secretariat	Incorporated into the Ghana Country Self-Assessment under the APRM.	No
2	President's Response to the Commission for Africa Report	Office of the President	Position Paper	No
3	Ghana Economic Review and Outlook (2005) (October 2005)	MDAs, Development Partners, RAOs, CSO, Private Sector, decision and policy makers	Analysis of the performance of the economy of Ghana	Yes
4	Gender, Poverty and Economic Growth (October 4 2005)	MDAs, Development Partners, RAOs, CSO, Private Sector, Banking Sector	Working Report	Yes
5	Bridging the North-South Divide in Ghana (July 19 2005)	Parliament, decision and policy makers, Private Sector, MDAs, RAOs and CSOs	Research Report (available on the CEPA website)	No
6	Trade Facilitation and Ghanaian Competitiveness	MDAs, Development Partners, RAOs, CSO, Private Sector, decision and policy makers	Working Paper	Yes
7	State Audit: An Instrument for Accountability and Economic Good Governance (July 2005)	Initially presented to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament and later MDAs, Development Partners, RAOs, CSO, Private Sector	Published in Selected Issues Series (this was after it was presented and discussed at the workshop for Public Accounts Committee of Parliament)	Yes
8	District Human Development Report	MDAs, Development Partners, RAOs, CSO, Private Sector, decision and policy makers	Research Reports (published by the UNDP)	No
3.2 Please explain the basis of the ranking; what criteria were you using for the ranking?				
The ranking is based on the impact the research activity has on policy and decision making related to economic good governance. These are among activities/products highlighted by ACBF – CEPA's main sponsor.				
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4. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change / results in the following areas please refer to the self-assessment formats for more detail	
4.1 Strategy, planning, decision making, knowledge management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and the Management Committee are in the process of restructuring CEPA in preparation for CEPA Phase III as per ACBF (CEPA's major sponsors). • Terms of reference is being drawn up for a consultant to produce a project document for presentation to ACBF for funding for CEPA Phase III. • Formerly the Management and Programmes Committees met together, but to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the roles they play, their meetings have been split up. 	
4.2 Funding base development and financial management	
CEPA has been bidding for projects that fall within its mandate as part of its strategy to raise resources to build up an endowment fund – a key component of its exit strategy. G-RAP funding has strengthened core funding for CEPA. ACBF provides 50% core funding for CEPA. This means CEPA has had to raise the other 50% of funding to enable it fully run research activities and meet its overheads.	
4.3 Recruitment, development and retention of staff; HR planning; incentives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Project Officers were recruited for the purpose of the Gender and Economic Growth Projects which consists of two components – financial and sociological. • Through collaborative effort between CEPA and Sigma One, North Carolina, USA, a member of staff went on a training programme to the USA. • At CEPA's Annual Retreat at Elmina, CEPA's administrative procedures were overviewed and discussed for improvement. • Career progression is being reviewed as a strategy for staff retention in preparation for CEPA III. 	
4.3 Organisational structure, board, management team	
At the apex of the organisational structure is the CEPA Council. The terms of reference for Council includes setting broad policy guidelines for CEPA's operations, approve CEPA's annual work programme, budget and audited accounts. This is followed by the Programmes and Management Committees. The Programmes Committee is made up of the Executive Director as Chair and all Research Staff. The Programmes Committee is charged with the responsibility of developing and reviewing the work programme. The Management Committee is made up of the Executive Director as Chair, Research Fellows and the Finance Officer. The Management Committee is charged with the implementation of the work programme and administrative issues.	
4.4 Marketing, public relations, communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new feature of CEPA's work programme is the use of validation workshops for stakeholders to disseminate research findings. These workshops allow for candid discussions on the research activity and reports. They also provide an acid test of relevance and potential impact. • CEPA carries out a lot of research which does not get the necessary exposure. The Selected Issues series is a conduit for publishing these research findings. • The importance of publishing popular versions of research reports is being stressed. • Finally, increasingly CEPA's research findings are disseminated through its website. 	
We authorise G-RAP to post this information on its website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. Grant and report related issues	
[not shared]	
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5.3 Please indicate any aspects of this report which are confidential and should not be communicated beyond G-RAP without prior consent.
Where negotiations and discussions are still underway, it would be appreciated if this is not communicated on the website.