

**ANNEX 5: NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT****Annual Reporting****July 2005 – June 2006**

version 50622

<b>General information</b>	
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<b>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?</b>	
<p><b>The Budget and Macro Economic policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghana government started the implementation of its 2006 Annual Budget with the beginning of the calendar year. This also coincided with the beginning of the implementation of the second phase of Ghana's poverty reduction strategy (GPRS II 2006-2009). The period under review has seen quite a stable political environment, rocked intermittently by harsh economic policy decisions, particularly the full deregulation of the country's petroleum sector, which in essence implies the withdrawal of subsidy from the sector.</li> <li>• Petroleum prices have been revised upwards twice since January. The result of this particular major policy implementation during the period under review has been: rising cost of living for workers, which is invariably linked to the increasing cost of transporting food from the rural areas to market centres. Industry was also hard hit by the policy, forcing on most companies, extreme cost cutting measures, including lay-offs, to remain viable. The period also saw several industrial unrests, particularly agitations among doctors, nurses, teachers, and non-teaching staff of higher educational institutions, for increased wages.</li> <li>• The regulatory authority of the petroleum sector has denied any interference in the pricing of petroleum products and the government attributes the increases in the prices of petroleum products to rising crude oil prices. However, it is clear that the tax element is quite substantial and that the petroleum taxes have to be reviewed downwards to reduce the increased burden of high petroleum prices on the citizenry. The government needs to explore other sources of tax revenue to replace these petroleum taxes.</li> <li>• The seemingly stable political environment was also rocked during the period under review, by the passing of a controversial bill in parliament to allow Ghanaians ordinarily resident abroad to take part in national elections. Series of demonstrations were organized by opposition political groups, who at one point clashed with armed state security agencies who had sought to keep the demonstrations under control.</li> <li>• A cabinet reshuffle was carried out in the first half of the year purportedly aimed at reducing the size of government. However, new ministries were created and some presidential hopefuls were dropped from the Executive, raising eyebrows among some critics. There are signs that preparations are being made for the 2008 Presidential elections as several presidential hopefuls are declaring their intentions to contest the elections. This provides a suitable atmosphere for advocacy groups to pressure these politicians to make public pronouncements on sensitive issues that can be followed on when they actually get elected.</li> </ul> <p>It is within this setting that ISODEC continued the implementation of its Rights-Based Advocacy Programme II, the thrust of which are: Analysis of public resource mobilisation and utilization especially the tracking of public resources, with Ghana beginning to enjoy the fruits of total debt cancellation and the US Millennium Challenge Account and the Campaigns for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment;</p>	

Free Universal Access to Basic Education; Campaign to keep Ghana's water in public hands, the Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade, and the Publish What You Pay Campaign focusED on the extractive sector.

The focus of these campaigns has been to lobby, and where necessary mobilize the masses to put pressure on government to work towards the achievement of the MDGs on health; education; livelihood security, and for that matter poverty reduction; good governance etc.

- Trends, as identified in the political and economic arena during the period under review provided ISODEC's campaigns in general, with increased convening capacities, a situation the Antiretroviral Access Campaign exploited when it mobilized coalition members and the general public to pressurize government to streamline its procurement arrangements for antiretroviral drugs and to ensure regular supply to those who urgently need them. Again the Trade and Livelihood Coalition used the opportunity to mobilize huge numbers for its trade policy advocacy work when it launched a Regional Integration and Trade Week in April 2006.
- The education front witnessed the introduction of some pro poor government policies which recorded some positive impacts These include
  - The government has introduced on a pilot basis a "School Feeding Programme" to relieve parents of the burden of providing food for their children while in school and making school attractive to the children.
  - According to the Ministry of Education's Preliminary Report on Education Sector Performance for 2005/2006 gross enrolment rate at the basic level increased from 54.58% in 2003-4 to 85.3% in 2005/6 showing an increase of 56%. Compared with 2004/5 figure of 60.14% there is an increase of 41.8% in gross enrolment. Also, a gender parity index of 1 is achieved for Kindergarten. A national comprehensive status report on gender parity in education in Ghana is currently being prepared, according to the same report.
  - Text book distribution and availability is believed to have improved slightly. But the ratio of pupil – text book remains high. According to the Ministry's Preliminary Report, every child now has a text book in all subjects. This is however not entirely true as the increase in enrolment numbers brought on by the Capitation Grant, has led to the persistence of a high pupil-text book ratio
- The Publish What You Pay; Water, and Education campaigns have during the period been going through strategizing processes. The education campaign however had one major engagement i.e. when the Coalition took part in this year's Educational Sector Review meeting organized by the Ministry of Education Science and Sports in June 2006.

Other significant Developments are the passage of the disability bill into an act, and the introduction of a whistles blower bill in parliament.

## **2. Collaboration and networking**

The CBA has continued to build new networks, especially in the West African sub-region while maintaining its existing relationships. Collaborative meetings and studies, particularly on transparency in the budget process, continue with the International Budget Project (IBP) of the CBPP in Washington. This study is now completed and will be launched globally in October. In April 2006, the IBP invited the CBA to join other budget practitioners in Bellagio, Italy, to discuss the outcome of its case studies of six budget groups selected from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The lessons from these studies were very helpful to the CBA. In May, the IBP invited the Programme Coordinator to join a resource person from Washington to facilitate a Budget Training Workshop in Chaing Mai, Thailand, for Human Rights activists from the Asia region. These activities created a forum for further networking and establishment of new relationships.

### **The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment**

ISODEC is prosecuting this Campaign through a National Coalition of organizations and individuals working on HIV/AIDS issues. As part of the strategic plan, we intend to hold a consensus building discussion with other stakeholders to find areas of working in partnership with other organizations.

We have taken into consideration 10 challenges and recommendations put together by Health Action International, the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition and the University of Amsterdam as a result of a joint research undertaken by them on Universal Access. Health Action International has expressed

interest in working with our coalition and has agreed in principle to fund some of our activities over a three year period through Health Access Network (a member of the coalition and a partner of HAI).

#### **The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade**

The coalition is represented in a working group in advocacy to combat stigma and discrimination led jointly by Academy for Educational Development (AED) and Ghana Sustainable Change Project (GSCP). The trade and livelihood campaign is being prosecuted through a coalition of NGOs, farmers and small-scale producer groups, including the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, Ghana Agriculture Workers Union of the Trades Union Congress of Ghana, Market Access Promotion Network, Social Enterprise (SEND) Foundation, and Abibiman Foundation. The Coalition networks with producer groups and civil society organizations in Burkina Faso, with the objective of sharing information, learning from each others experience, organizing joint activities and coordinating our efforts to make the desired impact at the regional level. The Sub-Regional Integration Week, marked in April, was organized in collaboration with the Commite Paysane de Faso (CPF) and ORCADE, both in Burkina Faso.

#### **Publish What You Pay Campaign**

The PWYP Campaign is being prosecuted through a coalition of NGOs and other civil society groups, including organized labour, gender, disability groups, and faith-based organizations. The Coalition networks with the Africa Regional Coordinating Secretariat of PWYP Africa and with civil society coalitions in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. The coalition is on the PWYP Africa-wide list serve and receives information from network partners on their country-level implementation, experiences and challenges.

#### **Campaign for Free Universal Access to Basic Education**

The Education Campaign is being prosecuted through the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC), and in collaboration with the Northern Network for Education Development (NNED), the District Education For All Teams (DEFATs), and the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT). Other partners include Oxfam (GB), and the Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF).

The Government of Ghana indicated its intensions to absorb all fees and charges by introducing what it calls 'Capitation Grant' in all public basic schools in September 2005. This grant is being financed through the HIPC debt relieve and the Social impact mitigation levy on petroleum. For the 2004/05 academic year an amount of ¢95billion cedis was released to cater for 4,314,887 pupils at ¢30,000 each. ISODEC has carried out a sample survey of the grant and supported GNECC and NNED to monitor the implementation of the grant.

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

#### ***The CBA and policy Makers***

The CBA's work on the DEEP model has stalled due to the unavailability of the consultant during the period under review. The CBA has, therefore, started looking at the model internally. As part of this strategy, the CBA is setting up meetings with the Ghana Statistical Service and its Technical Advisory Team to discuss the DEEP model and to help staff internalise the model.

The CBA submitted its report on the ten regional public forums on the budget statement to the President of the Republic of Ghana and also published it in the Daily Graphic and Public Agenda with resources provided by the Save the Children (UK), which has been funding the activities since the inception of the CBA.

Unfortunately, the CBA has still not been able to complete the detailed analysis of the 2005 Budget Statement. The reviewer has still not submitted the revised version and the CBA might have to combine its publication with the 2006 analysis. The preliminary analysis of the 2006 Budget is proceeding very well. Initial drafts have been received from all contributors and these are being reviewed by the group leaders assigned for that part.

The CBA has finalized the study on Budget Ceilings and the Health Sector in Ghana commissioned by the Wemos Foundation and the Transparency Questionnaire administered by International Budget Project (IBP) based in Washington. The comments of the reviewers have been addressed and a public media event on the later is scheduled for the October this year. The "Analysis of the Budget from a Gender Perspective" commissioned by the Alliance for Poverty Eradication has also been reviewed and we are now finalising report.

The CBA, in collaboration with the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) and Northern Network for Education Development (NNED) started the training of District Education for All Teams (DEFATs) in 2005 to equip them with skills to undertake the tracking of education resource flows and utilization, especially the capitation grants to basic schools. This training continued during the first half of 2006. So far twenty districts have benefited from this training and an initial report on their tracking activities is being reviewed for publication.

Finally, the CBA has carried out “A Pilot Study on Children’s Rights and Welfare: Assessing Ghana’s commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child” in five selected Municipal and District Assemblies areas aimed at assessing how both public and private treatment of children in the country, especially with regards to access to education and health care. The report will be distributed to child advocacy groups and ISODEC’s partners for use in their efforts towards improving the welfare of Ghana’s children.

In addition, to the National Service Personnel whom the CBA accepted for the 2005/2006 academic year, an Intern was also received from the USA for a ten-week period attachment. He has joined the Service personnel to assist in research mentoring programme to help prepare members of the Legon Economic Students Society (LESS) for the business and/or NGO world. Unfortunately, the Policy Analyst responsible for Gender and Children has resigned her position and yet to be replaced.

### **Media & Campaigns:**

#### **Human rights – the to a dignified life**

##### **The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment**

The year 2006 has been declared the year for accelerating HIV prevention in Africa. In managing the HIV menace, prevention remains a key issue but access to treatment is equally important. In fact, response to HIV/AIDS is regarded comprehensively to include prevention, treatment, care and support.

The Coalition started 2006 with a follow-up on the shortage of ARVs that was carried over from December 2005. It was apparent that in spite of the assurances from the Government, of adequate supplies of ARVs to last the whole of 2006 the situation had not improved.

For the Coalition, the right of PLWHA to life is contingent on their access to available treatment. The erratic supply of ARVs therefore was deemed by the Coalition as threatening to the enjoyment of this fundamental human right. Therefore, the Coalition (including the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAP+), on 8<sup>th</sup> February picketed the Ministry of Health. For the first time ever, People Living with HIV/AIDS in Ghana defied stigma and came out openly to demonstrate. This was significant in the sense that the PLWHA have most often shied away from public activities due to stigma and discrimination.

Responding to the Coalition’s petition the Deputy Minister of Health gave assurances that:

1. Government had received approval for a compulsory license and they would support local pharmaceuticals to improve production of some ARVs locally, in accordance with WHO standards;
2. That, there were plans underway to scale up the access facilities to all the regions by March 2006
3. That, by 2008 15,000 PLWHA will be able to access drugs;
4. That, efforts were being made to encourage the use of locally produced food supplements;
5. And that, the issue of a National Aids Fund for HIV/AIDS was still being discussed.

The impact of the Coalition’s intervention was that, it curtailed the rationing of ARVs, streamlined procurement arrangements, and has ensured regular supply of drugs even as the scale up plans are set in motion..

##### **The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade**

The Trade and Livelihoods Campaign, within the period under review has carried out one major public event, four workshops, one capacity building, and three strategizing / planning meetings. A Coalition to project the aims and objective of the campaign is being formalized.

The Campaign is premised on ISODEC’s commitment to fighting for a life of dignity for all, a right which finds expression in international legal instruments and in the constitution of Ghana. The right to life, which is a cardinal right, enshrined in the constitution of Ghana, places an obligation on the state to create an enabling

environment for the exercise of this right. However the neo-liberal trade policies being pursued by the Government of Ghana has encumbered the capacity of local farmers and small-medium scale producers to assert this right.

One of the major constraints farmers and producer groups in Ghana face in asserting their livelihood right is that of market inaccessibility. As part of efforts to empower local farmers and small-medium scale producers to access markets, a 3-three year market access programme has been initiated, with additional support from Oxfam (GB) and Comic Relief (U.K.) The programme has two components: Capacity building, and policy advocacy. During the period under review, ISODEC led the Coalition to conduct a massive public awareness campaign on the barriers to trade among countries of the West Africa sub-region. The awareness creation campaign, organized jointly with farmer groups, and other civil society organizations from Burkina Faso, formed part of activities marking the Sub-regional Integration Week in April 2006. It was based on a study carried out earlier by ISODEC on physical barriers (customs and police) and how they hinder access to the sub-regional markets for citizens of member countries

### **Publish What You Pay Campaign**

The Interim Steering Committee of the Coalition has met two times during the first six months of the year. The first meeting was organized to sort out some ideological differences which were emerging among some members of the Coalition in respect of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) process. And the second meeting organized to introduce potential new members to the EITI Concept and the PWYP Campaign. The prime objective of the second meeting indeed was to expand the membership base of the Coalition.

Besides the two meetings, the Coalition partnered the National Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee on EITI (Led by the Ministry of Finance), to organize sensitization and training workshops for District Chief Executives, and traditional authorities in the four main mining regions in Ghana. These were: Western, Ashanti, Eastern, and Brong Ahafo regions.

One major achievement of the Campaign with respect to the advancement of human rights so far, is the re-awakening of the consciousness of Ghanaian civil society to their right to information on national revenue generation and utilization, as well as the right to political participation, particularly in national resource allocation. There is as a result, increased agitation for the passage of the Right to Information, and Whistle Blower bills, which members of the Coalition see as crucial to the implementation of the EITI in Ghana. At the training and sensitization workshops for District Assembly representatives and traditional authorities in the four mining regions, calls were again made for the speedy passage of the two bills which have been before parliament for sometime now.

### **Campaign for Free Universal Access to Basic Education**

The Campaign for Free Universal Basic Education is all about the right to education. During the period under review, the consciousness of most Ghanaians to the inaccessibility of this right to a large number of children in Ghana was awakened, which made the citizens welcome the introduction of the Capitation Grant and many more calling for an increase in the grant levels to deal with the quality dimension of basic education. The period under review has seen an increase in the number of children able to access their right to basic education

### **Influencing policy**

#### **The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment**

A Partnership Forum organized by the Ghana AIDS Commission on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006 was another development which provided impetus to Campaign. The meeting was addressed, among others, by the World Bank, and DFID. The two donor institutions in their respective statements called for:

- The fight against stigma and discrimination
- Incorporation of treatment in AIDS response programmes
- Adequate systems and mechanisms to be put in place to address HIV/AIDS
- Respect for the rights and needs of PLWHA
- Achievement of universal access to ART to all who need them
- Capacity building for the Ghana Aids Commission
- Move from parallel funding to unified and coordinated funding
- The need to increase funding to GAC
- Moving away from donor-dependency in the management of HIV/AIDS

- Scale up and decentralization of treatment

The statement on behalf of civil society by the coordinator of Ghana HIV/AIDS Network (GHANET) complained of:

1. Bureaucratic procedures required by the World Bank for accessing funding
2. Failure of the World Bank to put in more resources
3. The slow pace of donors in honouring their commitments
4. Lack of capacity on the part of District Assemblies
5. Lack of development programmes for PLWHA

According to the President's advisor on HIV/AIDS, who also spoke at the meeting, 4,000 PLWHA were on treatment; decentralization of responses especially treatment, care and support was taking place; funding gap in treatment and care remained a source of worry for government; and also that, local mobilization of funds was being considered.

Some progress (little though) has been made in the scale-up plans; but perhaps the more significant aspect of the government's public pronouncements and assurances is that they provide the coalition the opportunity to hold government accountable to its own commitments.

A National Consultative Meeting on setting targets towards Universal Access held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 set ambitious national target of universal access in the country by 2010:

1. Treatment sites would be increased from 5 in 2005 to 50 in 2008 and by 2010 there will be 138 treatment sites.
2. Voluntary Counselling and Test (VCT) centres would go up to 190 by 2008 to 238 by 2010.
3. Prevention from Mother to Child Treatment (PMTCT) *services* would increase from 190 in 2008 to 238 by 2010.
4. 66% of all PLWHA needing treatment would be able to access antiretroviral combination therapy by 2010.

All targets were set using 2005 data as the reference.

Significance: The Coalition believes that, these targets may not be achieved looking at the present pace of scale-up and the resource constraints. This calls for more pressure on government to increase budgetary allocation to HIV programmes especially in the area of treatment. Donors must be made to honour their pledges and implementing bodies must be more proactive. As much as possible treatment must reach the WHO target of 80% by 2015 if Ghana should achieve the MDG 6 and if the right of PLWHA to treatment ensured.

We believe that government's immediate responses to our queries especially during the shortage of ARVs were indication of the impact of our activities. Visibility and recognition of the campaign are both relevant if we are to continue to make progress in achieving our objectives.

### **The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade**

The Sub-Regional Integration Week, marked in April, 2006 drew participation from government officials and policy makers from both Burkina Faso and Ghana. The officials from both countries made pledges to expedite action on the implementation of existing ECOWAS protocols, especially those relating to trade and the free movement of citizens. The week-long celebration provided the opportunity for renewing the policy dialogue established between the Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition and the Government of Ghana in 2005. Assurances were received from officials of both countries to work towards the reduction of physical barriers between them.

The Coalition also used the opportunity afforded by the Sub-Regional Integration Week to call for increased support, in the form of increased budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector, access to credit, enhanced extension services, and market protection to farmers and small-scale producers.

### **Campaign for Free Universal Access to Basic Education**

The campaign, through awareness creation events, public debates, and dialogue with government, has contributed towards the introduction of the Capitation Grant and the School Feeding Programme. The Coalition continues to engage government to keep to its new policy orientation and to intensify efforts

towards the attainment of the MDG on education.

During the period under review, ISODEC led the Coalition to share its preliminary findings of the fee-free education research report with stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, at the 2006 Education Sector Annual Review (ESAR) meeting in April, thus informing policy makers and other stakeholders on the challenges which still remain in striving to achieve a 100% enrolment at the basic level, while ensuring quality of teaching and learning. The ESAR meeting also provided the opportunity for the Coalition to critique the 2006 Preliminary Education Sector Performance Report, based on the Coalition's own available information, obtained mainly through its network of District Education For All Teams (DEFATs).

From a dossier compiled on teacher availability during the period under review, the following recommendations were made and presented to policy makers at a 'Big hearing' in Accra:

- That untrained teachers in the circuit should be assisted to gain professional skills through the Untrained Teacher Diploma in Basic Education (UTTDBE) while those already enrolled should have all their fees absorbed by the District Assemblies and other stakeholders.
- More female teachers should be posted to the circuit especially the rural and peri-urban communities to serve as role models to girls.
- Government and other stakeholders in education should help provide accommodation and other basic amenities to attract teachers to "no-go areas".
- Temporary accommodation should be constructed for schools with enrolment booms in order to facilitate effective teaching and learning. This should be complemented with posting more teachers to such schools.

### **Direct poverty alleviation**

#### **The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment**

Activities towards the end of 2005 and the beginning of 2006 by the Coalition gave considerable visibility to the coalition and what it stands for. Fundamental to the Campaign is the question of the impact of HIV/AIDS on the livelihoods of people living with the disease, and its long term implications for national economic development. For us, access to treatment meant good health for one to be able to pursue his or her livelihood. This we sought to do by influencing the streamlining of procurement arrangements, and putting pressure on government to scale-up the number of treatment centres. What still remains a barrier alleviating the poverty situation of PLWHA is the cost of treatment, especially given that most PLWHA are not economically active. As access increases considerably, and the Campaign gathers greater momentum, it is hoped that the cost barrier will also collapse.

#### **The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade**

The Campaign, during the period under review, sought to challenge the design of Ghana's Poverty Reduction Strategy, on the basis that since about 60% of working Ghanaians are farmers and these constitute the poorest in the society, it was defeatist to withdraw subsidies from the agricultural sector, and to leave farmers to the vagaries of the free market place. This has been articulated through the contribution of the Trade Programme to ISODEC's analysis of the 2006 Annual Budget Statement of Ghana; at a press conference organized in April 2006; and during the Sub-Regional Integration Week.

In response to calls for support, especially to the distressed sub-sectors of agriculture, the government announced the institution of a 20bn Cedis (about \$1.8 million) support scheme to cotton farmers in the three northern regions of Ghana, through the cotton companies (produce buying) in the regions in May 2006. Information gathered by the Coalition is that, the farmers have not received the announced support, neither have the companies received any money for the announced purpose.

The Coalition has challenged the government to come clear on the issue.

Though a modest gesture, if the government makes good its pledge, it will go some way in alleviating some of the supply constraints facing cotton farmers, and through increased production, and lower production cost, enhance their incomes.

#### **Publish What You Pay Campaign**

Working through the national multi-stakeholder steering committee, and also using the platform provided by the training and sensitization workshops, the Coalition managed, during the period under review, to substantially influence the national frame work and implementation plan. First, traditional authorities, who were initially excluded from the reporting arrangements because it was felt that they will resist such attempt,

have now been robbed in. This happened when the Coalition insisted at the workshops that they came on board, and were made to understand that the EITI has benefits for them too.

Again, the suggestion by the Coalition that the EITI process be legislated to make it mandatory for all companies to make public disclosures of their payments has been accepted and incorporated into the national implementation plan. Also accepted and incorporated into the plan, is the suggestion that sub-national level revenue receipts and utilization be elaborated to ensure that the dividends from mining goes to address the development challenges that mining poses in the communities.

There is also consensus around the need to review the national mining law and make it consistent with the tenets of the EITI.

### **Society building**

#### **The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment**

One significant step forward that has been made by the coalition and has a bearing on society building was the development of a strategic plan, which incorporated into the Campaign the issues of stigmatization, and how to combat it. This became necessary first of all to strengthen the coalition and to direct our strategy as an actor in the context of a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS locally and globally. It was necessary to reposition the campaign to act in partnership and collaboration with other existing efforts towards combating the pandemic as spelt out in the National Strategic Framework II, the Declaration of Commitment and the G8 goal of coming as close as possible to universal access by 2010, but without losing our goal of making access to antiretroviral free in Ghana. Our broad objectives, strategies and activities have subsequently been reformulated to fit in the present environment. For us, addressing the problem of stigmatisation goes a long way to build a socially inclusive, and a cohesive society, such that the social support system for PLWHA is strengthened.

#### **The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade**

The Campaign is driven by the belief that, issues of economic justice are fundamental to a stable and harmonious society. The search for equity in the rules and norms governing trade, and more specifically in national trade policy formulation is therefore, key to society building. Society's attention has been drawn, and consensus is beginning to emerge among stakeholders, that farmers deserve better than they are receiving. The challenge is to get some action on the issues affecting the well-being of farmers and this when achieved will enhance social cohesion.

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

#### **The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment**

The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment was launched by ISODEC in 2005 and is the organisation's intervention towards the achievement of the MDG on health. The Campaign is being prosecuted through a National Coalition of organizations and individuals working on HIV/AIDS issues.

During the period under review, the following progress was made against the set objectives of the Campaign:

- Increased public awareness about the availability of the treatment in the country.
- Recognition by government and the public of the need to scale-up.
- Identification of impediments in the way of scale-up plans.
- New scale-up targets set by government.
- ARV procurement arrangements now streamlined to ensure regular supply of the drugs.
- Government rededicates itself to demonstrating greater commitment to the management of HIV/AIDS in Ghana.

#### **The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade**

The rallying moment leading to the inception of the Trade and Livelihoods Campaign was the Global Week of Action on Trade, spearheaded in Ghana by ISODEC in April 2005. The group of organizations and individuals, including farmers and small-medium scale producer groups brought together by ISODEC, with addition support from Oxfam (GB), to mark the week have since been constituted into a group known as the Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition, led by ISODEC, and through which the Trade and Livelihoods Campaign is being prosecuted.

The objectives of the Campaign are:

- Market access promotion for peasant farmers and small-medium scale producers.
- Advocate for trade policy reform to secure the livelihoods of Ghanaian farmers and small-medium scale producers.
- Advocate for the speedy implementation of ECOWAS protocols, especially those relating to trade and the free movement of citizens.
- Educate and create public awareness on ECOWAS trade protocols as part of efforts at bringing the citizens on board the regional integration process in West Africa.
- Advocate for increased budgetary allocations to support farmers and small-medium scale producer groups.

The following progress was made against the Campaign objectives during the period under review:

- Increased awareness among the citizens and policy makers on the market constraints confronting farmers and small-medium scale producers.
- Channels of dialogue established with the Ministry of Trade and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Trade on the impact of existing trade policies on the livelihoods of farmers and small-medium scale producers.
- Government moved to announce the reduction in the number of physical (customs/police) barriers from Accra to the country's major entry points.
- Substantial awareness created among the citizens of Ghana and Burkina Faso on the regional integration process.
- Media interest in trade and livelihood issues increased.

#### **Publish What You Pay Campaign**

The Publish What You Pay Campaign was initiated in 2004 following a roundtable meeting organized by ISODEC to mobilize civil society input into the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) and to facilitate an active civil society participation in the monitoring of its implementation. It is part of a wider global campaign for transparency in extractive sector revenues, with the objective of:

1. Mobilising civil society to engage with other stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the EITI process.
2. Promoting budget/revenue transparency at the community level, through grass root participation in budget/revenue tracking.
3. Eliminating corruption and revenue leakages in the extractive sector.
4. Ensuring that the extractive sector contributes positively to national development and poverty reduction, especially in communities immediately affected by extractive sector activities.

The Campaign is in its embryonic stage. Civil society groups are still being mobilized around the issue. During the period under review, a number of activities were carried out in conjunction with other stakeholders, which in a way advance the Campaign objectives. Progress made against the objectives includes:

- Increased awareness among the civil society groups on the need for popular mobilization to engage with EITI process. Twenty organizations, made up NGOs, organized labour, student groups, disability and gender groups have so far signed up to become members of the PWYP Campaign Coalition.
- Consensus built among government and non-government stakeholders on the need for revenue transparency and accountability, and a framework developed for the national implementation of the initiative. Concerns though remain among civil society over the scope of the process, and the campaign will highlight these.
- Preparations are far advanced to formally launch the campaign in September 2006. It is hoped that it will mark the turning point in the Campaign, as planned training and further sensitization programmes will begin to roll from then on.

#### **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?**

Our credibility continues to be rated high. The reason being our objectivity and focus on ISODEC's mission and values. The key programme strategy is to stay focus on our principles and ensure high quality research and critical analysis of our advocacy and campaign issues. Our key constituency remain the poor , disadvantaged, women and children

<b>3. 1 Output ranking on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered;</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Outputs presented in submitted Workplan</b>	<b>Target groups that received or used the output delivered</b>	<b>Documents describing output delivery</b>	<b>Attached Copy yes/no</b>
1	Pro-poor budget analysis, tracking and research	<p>The President of the Republic of Ghana, Parliamentarians, MDAs DAs, General public, University and research Institutions and Civil society Organisations.</p> <p>The CBA has finalized for the study on Budget Ceilings and the Health Sector in Ghana commissioned by the Wemos Foundation and the Transparency Questionnaire administered by International Budget Project (IBP) based in Washington.</p> <p>The “Analysis of the Budget from a Gender Perspective” commissioned by the Alliance for Poverty Eradication has completed.</p> <p>A Pilot Study on Children’s Rights and Welfare: Assessing Ghana’s Commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child” completed</p>	2006 budget analysis	<p>yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>
2	Budget training workshop	Members of the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) and Northern Network for Education Development (NNED) .	Workshop Report	No
3	Completion of the DEEP economic model	Ministry of Finance, National development planning., Universities and research institutions and civil society organisations	The review of the final model is now being done internally and is still in progress	No
4	Research - Right to education	The groups who are consulted include but not limited to; The coalition of NGOs campaigning for the right to education, ministry of education and Ghana education service, parents and pupils, donor agencies.	The first draft of the research has been reviewed and the second draft is being prepared	No
5	Networking and coalition building	<p><b>The Campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment</b> Health Action International has expressed interest in working with our coalition and has agreed in principle to fund some of our activities over a three year period through Health Access Network (a member of the coalition and a partner of HAI).</p> <p><b>The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade</b> The coalition is represented in a working group in advocacy to combat</p>	Reports	Yes

		stigma and discrimination led jointly by Academy for Educational Development (AED) and Ghana Sustainable Change Project (GSCP). The trade and livelihood campaign is being prosecuted through a coalition of NGOs, farmers and small-scale producer groups, including the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, Ghana Agriculture Workers Union of the Trades Union Congress of Ghana, Market Access Promotion Network, Social Enterprise (SEND) Foundation, and Abibiman Foundation.		
6	Promoting transparency in the extractive industry	The PWYP Campaign is being prosecuted through a coalition of NGOs and other civil society groups, including organized labour, gender, disability groups, and faith-based organizations.	Report/ Update	Yes
7	Youth in governance	6 students of the Economics department of the University of Ghana are being trained for one year.	Staff list	No
8	Contribution to office rent	Direct beneficiaries are the staff of ISODEC	Payment voucher	No
9	Office equipment and furniture	Direct beneficiaries are the staff of ISODEC	Payment voucher	No
10	Communication, postages and internet service	Direct beneficiaries are the staff of ISODEC	Payment voucher	No
<b>3.2 Please explain the basis of the ranking; what criteria were you using for the ranking?</b>				
<p>Each output was scored over 10 based on the following criteria and scale of score:          Extent to which the output has or will contribute to policy or practice change that will benefit the poor and the vulnerable – <b>4 score</b>          Number of direct Beneficiaries – individuals or networks –<b>3 score</b> ; Number of indirect beneficiaries – <b>2 score</b> ; Direct benefit for ISODEC – <b>1 score</b></p>				

<p><b>4. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change / results in the following areas</b> please refer to the self-assessment formats for more detail</p>
<p><b>4.1 Strategy, planning, decision making, knowledge management</b></p> <p>The first draft of the RBA III proposal is being circulated to some stakeholders for their input and suggestions. This document will be finalised after a participatory evaluation for the RBA II which is scheduled for September 2006 is done.</p> <p>The expected assistance from SNV in the area of knowledge management did not materialise during the period under review. However, discussion with SNV is ongoing with the certainty of kick starting the process as soon as possible.</p>
<p><b>4.2 Funding base development and financial management</b></p> <p>We have identified a fundraising consultant to assist the organisation to develop a fundraising strategic. His first meeting with the management is schedule for August 8 2006.</p> <p>Our external Auditors have completed their work and report ready for circulation</p>
<p><b>4.3 Recruitment, development and retention of staff; HR planning; incentives</b></p> <p>Six Economics students for the University of Ghana will be completing their national service with the Centre for Budget Advocacy (CBA) for the service year 2005/2006 in July. Arrangements are far advanced with the Legon Economics to recommend another set of students for national service with ISODEC for 2006/2007.</p> <p>Due to inadequate flow of funds the organisation is unable to implement fully recommendations on organisational restructuring made by the Change Management Team put together by the Executive Council. Alternatively attempts are being made to implement the recommendations in phases although it delays the implementation period</p> <p>For the same reason stated above, staff salary and other incentive packages remain the same. This has increased the risk of having our experienced programme staff attracted to organisations that offer better salary and incentive package.</p>
<p><b>4.3 Organisational structure, board, management team</b></p> <p>There is no significant change of the organisational structure, board membership and the management team of the organisation for the period under review. Work on the membership drive for the organisation is on going.</p>
<p><b>4.4 Marketing, public relations, communication</b></p> <p>There are no significant changes in our marketing and public relations approaches. We however hope these will change as a result of the fundraising strategy to be developed</p>
<p><b>5. Grant and report related issues</b></p>
<p><b>5.1 Details of any notable challenges or unexpected developments encountered during the reporting period. Indicate the reason for such change and what impact this could have on the execution of your original Annual Work plan as attached to the Grant contract.</b></p> <p>The scheduled activity on the DEEP model did not come due to the unavailability of the consultant during the period under review. As a result, the amount budgeted for the activity was moved to support activities under the education campaign</p>
<p><b>5.2 Please indicate any issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management, monitoring or financial procedures.</b></p> <p>There are two key challenges that ISODEC must address in order to keep its relevance and credibility.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase programme funding</li> <li>2. Organisational Development Issues (ability to recruit and maintain quality staff. Retooling and update of management processes)</li> </ol> <p>Although the ICB funding seeks to address part of the OD issues, it is important that the Grant and GRAP management support ISODEC by increasing the programme funding base to enhance programme quality and staff capability.</p>
<p><b>5.3 Please indicate any aspects of this report which are confidential and should not be communicated beyond G-RAP without prior consent.</b></p> <p>There is no aspect of this report that is confidential</p>