



## ANNEX 5: NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

### Six-Month and Annual Reporting

Version 50622

<b>General information</b>	
Name of the Organisation: ABANTU for Development	Contract Ref. No.: No.:01/core/01/ABANTU
Report Prepared by: Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin	Report Period: July-December 2006
Signature: 	Report Date: February 13, 2007
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Signature: 	
<b>Introductory note on the bi-annual narrative progress reporting</b>	
We seek your information on progress in order to inform discussions between Grantee and PMT. We will also use the information for identifying useful capacity building activities for the RAO sector, as well as for reporting to the donors for accountability purposes.	
All boxes are self-expanding. The information could serve for G-RAP's public communications strategy, though we of course seek your consent for any public reference to your organization. Please note the ticking boxes at the right bottom side of each box!	

<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>	
There is an increasing interest to involve civil society organisations in the discussion processes of policies. This was particularly at the levels of implementation and review rather than at the design stage. This change has come about because of pressure from the donor community and also the interest on the part of government to respond to the conditionality of “ownership”. Pressure from civil society organisations has also contributed to this process.	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<b>2. Collaboration and networking</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
ABANTU’s major target groups are policy makers and women at the different levels of the governance system. During the period, networking and collaborative relationships were enhanced with district level authorities particularly. This was because of the local level elections which took place in September 2006. Through additional support received from CIDA/DANIDA we initiated a nationwide campaign to promote and prepare women’s active involvement in the elections. A high level of confidence has been established between ABANTU and local level institutions as a result of this initiative and the organisation is building on this to implement a mentoring programme for young women by attaching them to District/Municipal/Metropolitan Assemblies for a period of time to learn about the workings of the local governance system. We also continued our relationship with Parliament by tracking bills and analysing the extent to their sensitivity to gender issues and lobbying Parliamentarians on how such bills could be strengthened to promote greater sensitivity to gender issues. A particular case in point is the Domestic Violence Bill.	
<b>2.2 How has collaboration been strengthened (i.e. joint campaigns, collaboration, networking) with other RAOs / CSOs / CBOs?</b>	
ABANTU’s strong relationship with other CBOs is the hallmark of its existence. The organisation stands out among many others as being a firm believer in joint campaigns, collaboration and networking. As the current Convenor of the Network for Women’s Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) and the Coalition on the Women’s Manifesto for Ghana (WMC), ABANTU has provided leadership for joint activities such as the implementation of the district level elections programme for women and training programme for women in political parties. With reference to the former, about eight (8) member organisations from the national women’s coalitions worked with ABANTU while Women In Broadcasting (WIB) collaborated with us on the latter. We have also collaborated with mainstream networks like the National Coalition on Mining (NCOM) and the National Coalition on Water (NCAP).	
<b>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?</b>	
There is a positive perception about RAOs in Ghana today among both government and the Ghanaian public. First of all, donor conditionality requires a sense of ownership among citizens on issues of policy. This requirement is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it forces the hard of the state to engage with civil society but this engagement is often flawed as issues of conception and formulation are never up for discussion. Some of the discussions are so hurriedly done as to undermine the whole process of consultation and ownership. On the other hand, compliance with this requirement by donors has implications for issues of national sovereignty and the ability to independently make critical decisions that would be of benefit to the citizens. Beyond the above concerns, it is important to acknowledge the slow pace of change in government attitude to civil society organisations and to see this as a major challenge for us to deepen our advocacy efforts. Women’s organisations in particular seem to have increased their space and voice on issues of policy. This is particularly due to our ability to work in coalitions and networks around issues such as violence against women, political participation, economic policy (e.g. GPRS II) and land rights.	
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<b>3.1 Output ranking on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered;</b> Please <b>rank the outputs</b> 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	CIDA-DANIDA programme	Women candidates in the September 2006 district level elections, the general public (especially those with votes), policy makers (both at local and national levels) and the media.	Soft copy of interim report submitted to CIDA-DANIDA	Yes
2	Forums for potential district assemblywomen	Women candidates in the September 2006 district level elections	Soft copy of report on forum organised in Cape Coast	Yes
3	Pilot mentoring programme for female SSS graduates on governance	Young female SSS graduates from selected schools in the Eastern region.	Soft copy of progress report on the Mentoring Programme	Yes
4	Publication of an issue of <i>ABANTU News</i> newsletter on governance	Policy makers, civil society organisations, local government practitioners, gender activists, politicians, students and researchers	Hard copies of the newsletter. Soft copies of this and past issues of the newsletter can however be downloaded from, <a href="http://www.abantu-rowa.org/riap.html">www.abantu-rowa.org/riap.html</a>	Yes
5	Research on the use of water meters	Women in selected localities in Accra	Soft copy of research report	No. Final copy will be sent later
6	Schools outreach programme	Students, academic and non-academic staff of second cycle institutions	Soft copy of report on Adonten Secondary School outreach programme	Yes
7	Public education through radio on women's leadership capabilities and potential using jingles. (Jingles were broadcast on several radio stations across the country)	The general public	CD copies of jingles in various languages	Yes
<b>3.2 Please explain the basis of the ranking; what criteria were you using for the ranking?</b>				
We attached equal importance to all the outputs listed above and do not rank any of them above the other.				
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<b>4. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change / results in the following areas</b> please refer to the self-assessment formats for more detail	
<b>4.1 Strategy, planning, decision making, knowledge management</b>	
This is a major area of strength for ABANTU. We remain on the cutting edge of strategic thinking and planning. Decision-making starts from the level of our target groups to us and back to them. Our improved ICT facilities and the establishment of a website have enhanced the management of the knowledge we produce.	
<b>4.2 Funding base development and financial management</b>	
Our financial management principles are also being enhanced. The autonomous status of the organisation is creating space for us to run our calendar year from January to December, a shift which is intended to align our financial year with that of the government. Our funding base however needs some strategic thinking and development in view of the fact that our main core funder, The Ford Foundation, is ending its facility with us at the end of March 2007. The argument is that we should be able to secure core funding from other sources.	
<b>4.3 Recruitment, development and retention of staff; HR planning; incentives</b>	
Retention of staff is a key organisational interest of ABANTU. To this end, a staff development programme provides space for staff to identify their training needs which have been met through the application especially of the ICB grant. Incentives for staff include opportunities to travel and participate in international conferences, transport allowances, end-of-year bonuses, support for healthcare, and flexible working hours which is particularly important for working mothers.	
<b>4.3 Organisational structure, board, management team</b>	
Significant progress has been made in the area of devolution of power. This has enabled all staff to play leadership roles at their own levels of operation. The board continues to take major decisions but leaves management to work with those decisions at the level of implementation. As a small organisation, we continue to have a simple but effective organisational structure that ensures that work goes on smoothly with or without management.	
<b>4.4 Marketing, public relations, communication</b>	
We have retained our cutting-edge relationship with our constituents through our effective Research, Publications and Information programme. Indeed, ABANTU can be referred to also as a clearing house for relevant information on gender and policy issues with particular emphasis on governance and poverty.	
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<b>5. Grant and report related issues</b>	
<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 Workplan as attached to the Grant contract.</b>	
There were no notable challenges beyond the sheer volume of responsibility and expectations from our constituents.	
<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>	
Issues of monitoring or financial procedures of the Grant and G-RAP management are discussed at the level of the RAOs. ABANTU has participated actively in those discussions and will continue to do so. This is to promote a more collective approach on these very important issues.	
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<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>	
None.	