

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

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General information	
Name of the Organisation: ISODEC	Contract Ref. No.:01/Core/33/ISODEC
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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?	
<p>The Budget and Macro Economic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 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). While Ghana is implementing a poverty reduction strategy, the petroleum deregulation policy has taken off fully and petroleum prices were raised a number of times during the first half of the year. This led to high prices of food and other basic social goods and services. 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, with world crude prices falling during the second half of the year, the country has revised its petroleum prices downwards a couple of time although the reductions are not significant and have not led to any reduction in general prices in the country. This is partly due to the fact that the tax element is quite substantial. The CBA/ISODEC still thinks that government needs to explore other sources of tax revenue to replace these petroleum taxes to reduce the increased burden of high petroleum prices on the citizenry. ✚ The political situation remains calm and the government continues to be tolerant but insensitive to public criticisms. A cabinet reshuffle was carried out during the first half of the year purportedly aimed at reducing the size of government. 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. The main Opposition National Democratic Congress has elected their Presidential candidate for the 2008 presidential 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. Thus, the environment remains suitable for organizations like the CBA to continue their advocacy work, especially the tracking of public resources, with Ghana beginning to enjoy the fruits of total debt cancellation. The Ghana Government and the United States signed a compact for the latter's support to the tune of \$547 million dollars for a five-year period. However, the country has still not started receiving funds from the US Millennium Challenge Account. ✚ For the second time, the government was able to present its Budget (2007) to Parliament and got it approved before the beginning of the financial year, which meant that the budget implementation started with the beginning of the financial year. Complaints of late release of funds for budget execution should now be reduced. ✚ The whistle blower and right to information bills are still in the consideration stages. <p>During the second half of the year, 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; Free Universal Access to Basic Education; Campaign to keep Ghana's water in public hands, the Campaign</p>	

for Improved Livelihoods through trade, and the Publish What You Pay Campaign focused on the extractive sector.

The focus of these campaigns are still 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.

- ✚ Perhaps the major success in period under review was the publication of the first Ghana inception report on the EITI process. In the report the aggregator raised serious questions regarding the receipts, utilisation and especially weaknesses in institutional arrangements in the extractive sector.

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. The CBA has formally entered into an agreement with the IBP to carry out some aspects of its work in Africa. The first of such activities was the hosting of its Tax Training Workshop in Accra in December which the CBA successfully managed.

The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade

The Ghana Trade and Livelihoods Coalition (GTLC) has been born as a campaign and advocacy body to advocate for farmers' interests and against unfair trade practices, especially those affecting their produce. The coalition is registered with the Registrar General's Department as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The Rights to Health Campaign

During the last half of the year ISODEC began consolidating its work on reproductive health and the campaign for Free Universal Access to Antiretroviral Treatment into a major campaign on right to health. This is to build synergy for effectiveness and efficiency.

The right to health campaign will therefore have two main focuses

- ✚ The right to universal access to antiretroviral treatment and
- ✚ Alliance to reproductive health rights

Publish What You Pay Campaign

As indicated in the progress report of the first half -year, the Ghana Coalition has been engaging with EITI since 2004. The steering committee of the coalition has been able to carry out four community-based mobilisation and sensitization meetings (in the four mining enclaves in Ghana) with the objective of broadening civil society participation in the EITI process, especially at the community level. The community mobilisation efforts culminated in the formal launch of the coalition in Accra in September, 2006. The Coalition continues to network with the Africa Regional Coordinating Secretariat of PWYP Africa and with civil society coalitions in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. And reaches out through the PWYP Africa List serve.

Campaign for Free Universal Access to Basic Education

ISODEC continued its right to education campaign through providing technical and political direction to the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC), The fee free campaign and the Girl Child Education Programme (GCEP). During the period under review ISODEC/CBA did an extract of the education sector budget of the 2005 National budget to support the campaign on effective and efficient utilisation of education sector resources.

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

Budget Advocacy

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. Following the presentation of the 2007 Annual Budget to Parliament, the CBA conducted a quick assessment of the Budget Statement and called a Press Conference a week after and presented our views on the 2007 Budget Statement.

The CBA has finalized a number of studies in the year. These include 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 report of the Open Budget Questionnaire was launched in October simultaneous with researchers in all the other countries. The "Analysis of the Budget from a Gender Perspective", which was commissioned by the Alliance for Poverty Eradication (ALPE), has been reviewed and submitted to ALPE.

The CBA, in collaboration with the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) and Northern Network for Education Development (NNED) conducted the 2006 training of District Education for All Teams (DEFATs) to equip them with skills to undertake the tracking of education resource flows and utilization, especially the capitation grants to basic schools. The Extract of the Education Budget for 2005, which was part of the GNECC assignment, has also been completed and submitted for publication. An orientation was held for DEFATs in the three last regions, Western, Volta and Ashanti, and they have completed an initial tracking of the Capitation grant. The results are being compiled for analysis and the writing of a report for the GNECC.

Finally, the CBA 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 Assembly 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, which was compiled before the end of the year, is now being reviewed for publication. It is expected that it will be useful to child advocacy groups and ISODEC's partners for use in their efforts towards improving the welfare of Ghana's children.

In October, the CBA launched the report of its study on "Community Assessment of Service Delivery and Poverty Reduction Interventions in Five Pilot Districts". This was a Media event and several reporters attended the function.

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 joined the Service personnel to assist in its research work but also as a part of its mentoring programme to help prepare members of the Legon Economic Students Society (LESS) for the business and/or NGO world. The CBA has taken another four National Service Personnel to replace this group as their Service period ended in August 2006. This latter group reported just before the end of the year.

Media & Campaigns:

Trade and Development

- *Market Access*

As part of a 3-year market access programme involving Ghana and Burkina Faso and supported by Oxfam and Comic Relief, ISODEC was involved in a number of activities in the market access programme. This programme focuses on building the supply and capacity constraints of five producer groups in Ghana and three producer groups in Burkina Faso. The partnership in the implementation of this programme includes, in Ghana: Market Access Promotion Network (MAPRONET), the General Agriculture Workers Union (GAWU), the Peasant Farmers Association (PFAG) and in Burkina Faso: Commite Paysane de Faso (CPF) and ORCADE. ISODEC's role involved

- Carrying out a baseline data collection on the five producer groups and making an analysis of the situation affecting the producers;

- ✚ Undertaking a study of the existing physical barriers that hinder trade between Ghana and Burkina Faso on the Tema – Paga route and;
- ✚ A roundtable to discuss findings of the study on physical barriers;
- ✚ Participation in organizing a sub regional integration week in April.

- *Trade and Livelihoods Coalition*

Farmers and producers in Ghana have been victims of unfavourable trade and agriculture policy changes, formulation and implementation over the past two decades. There are advantages in taking part in the policy processes and also making representations as a group to policy makers to ensure that their concerns were not only taken on board but also implemented to improve the dire livelihood situation they find themselves in as a result.

During the year, ISODEC led a group of NGOs, farmer and producer organizations to build a trade and livelihoods advocacy coalition to represent vulnerable farmers and producers to assert their rights to contribute to policy discourse concerning them and to be able to influence policy in their favour. This development is based on the experience these organizations had in working together on trade campaigns in the year 2005. Some of the issues that they engaged in during the year were campaigns on the increment of tariffs, support to farmers through favourable credit and inputs.

Specifically the following activities were carried out:

- ✚ Three zonal workshops (Northern, Middle and southern Ghana) were carried out to mobilize and build capacities of farmers, producers and NGOs on trade;
- ✚ Drafting a constitution and structure for the coalition;
- ✚ A workshop to discuss the constitution and structure;
- ✚ A General Assembly to adopt the constitution and structures of the coalition, and thus, formally launching the Trade and Livelihoods Coalition to mobilize and build capacities of farmers, producers and NGOs on trade;
- ✚ Compiling a three-year technical and financial funding proposal for the coalition.
- ✚ Commissioned a rice research with specific focus on cost of implementation of some policy recommendations.
- ✚ A Farmers Week Celebration which was marked by a Float and some press events
- ✚ Engagements on rice with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Trade, Industry;
- ✚ Engagement on Economic Partnership Agreements.

The Trade and Livelihoods coalition has drawn government's attention to pertinent issues affecting the lives of rural farmers. These farmers, for a long time, have never realized that they could express an opinion on their area of specialization. Now they have come together and can make their views known to the government and other stakeholders, with the hope that it can lead to a better deal for rural farmers.

The Rights to Health Campaign

Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights

The goal of the Alliance is to contribute to a realisation of the rights of disadvantaged groups, particularly young people and women of reproductive age to improved sexual and reproductive health from 2006-2009.

This will be achieved by

- ✚ Increasing access to responsive SRH services and information in target communities;
- ✚ Improving capacity of target communities to understand and demand responsive, timely and accountable sexual and reproductive health services;
- ✚ Improving the organisational capacity of Ghanaian national and local NGOs and CBOs to deliver rights-based SRH services and information.

This is in line with ISODEC's outcome 4 that seeks to enhance equal access to reproductive services and also outcome 5 that seeks to contribute to policy and practice(in the health sector).

During the period under review the following activities were undertaken.

- ✚ The Inception Meeting on the ARHP

The objective of the meeting was to explain the concept of the Rights- Based Approaches (RBA) to sexual and reproductive rights to partner organizations and also find out where they are and how ready they are for the ARHP. The meeting reviewed activities of partner LNGOs as well as sources of funding. The current programme approach of the ARHP as well as SRH from the perspective of the Ghana Health Service was discussed. This was to ensure that the alliance was ready and also that the alliance work could fit into the GHS plans so as to influence policy.

✚ Regional and National workshop on Rights Based Approach to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights:(Accra & Tamale)

The object of the workshops was to see how the Alliance program fits the local context (national, regional, and district and community context) and to develop district-specific work plans, discuss advocacy strategies and to find out the capacity gaps of partners. The participants were unanimous that by adopting a Rights-Based Approach they can best achieve their common goal—improving people’s well-being—by taking advantage of the complementary strengths of human rights and health advocacy. Taking a rights-based approach to reproductive health offers many benefits:

- ✚ Human rights can provide core values and an ethical framework for public health practitioners.
- ✚ International treaty obligations increase the pressure on governments to provide adequate health services, fight violence against women, and take other actions that improve public health.
- ✚ Framing a health problem like maternal mortality as human rights or social justice concern raises its visibility and can make it an urgent policy concern.
- ✚ Rights education can empower health care clients and the community by instilling a sense of entitlement and establishing new social norms
- ✚ Respecting human rights improves the effectiveness of health interventions: outcomes are better if adolescents are offered reproductive health services, if couples are encouraged to make an informed choice of family planning methods, and if sex workers are empowered, rather than coerced, to use condoms.
- ✚ A rights-based approach helps public health practitioners understand the societal factors, such as gender inequality, that influence reproductive health and reach beyond the health sector to address them.
- ✚ Right based approach to reproductive health was emphasized as a critical means to achieving the MDGs.

The major conclusion was that a rights based approach to health uses a combination of support and pressure to urge government departments to make basic health care accessible and affordable for all people. It support people and organizations to demand better health services from the government and from other duty bearers, to allocate the health budget in a way that benefits the poor rather than the rich, to make health services more patient-friendly, to make health insurance affordable for all people, to provide access to safe drinking water, or to control polluting industries. Far from creating dependency, such an approach empowers people to take action to claim what is their due, rather than passively accepting whatever the government is willing to give them. Adopting a rights based approach to development has implications for programming. The LNGOs were therefore charged to form and or be part coalition on essential services (health, education & water) to consolidate their positions and maximise strength. Partners were also urged to work on advocacy issues that fit into the National Health Strategic Plan but concentrating on regional and DHMT plans.

The strategies identified include sensitization, education, advocacy and lobbying, and signature campaigns.

Data on Inventory of Health Infrastructure- Research

The objective of the research is to know what is on the ground for proper engagement with service providers and government. These activities also address the capacity needs of partners through a planning meeting to discuss the questionnaire and questionnaire administration for the health institutional inventory.

This guide below was developed for the inventory:

- ✚ For a confidence interval of 10 and a confidence level of 95%, 95 household questionnaires were administered in the following districts: Zabzugu, Saboba-Chereponi, and Bongo. However 96 household questionnaires were administered in the rest of the districts. In all, a total of about 957 household questionnaires were administered.
- ✚ Five health facilities visited in each district: they include the district hospital, two sub-district health centres (one rural one peri-urban) and two CHPS facilities
- ✚ Focus Group Discussions were held in three communities. For each community there were two groups of males and females participating as follows:

	Males	Females
1 st Group	15-30 yrs	15-30 yrs
2 nd Group Above	30 yrs Above	30 yrs

NB: Each focus group comprised, 10-15 members

- ✚ Questionnaires were also administered to the District Health Management Team (DHMT) and the District Mutual Health Insurance Secretariat (DMHIS).
- ✚ Partners are analyzing (on-going) and will report on questionnaires administered to DHMT, DMHIS and health facilities while ISODEC analyzes household questionnaire - on going.

Supply of Motor Bikes

As part of capacity building, partners were provided 10 motorbikes, one for each partner. This is to facilitate their movement to the communities.

Secondment of Community Health Nurses and Collaborations with Ghana Health Service

About six LNGOs partners have been able to negotiate with their DHMTs to attached nurses on secondment to their organizations. The rest of them are working at it. Relationship with GHS is very cordial so some partners were involved in the National Immunization Programme

Organisational and training needs assessment

ISODEC has successfully conducted organizational assessment and training needs assessment of nine out of the current 11 partner LNGOs to examine their capacity to implement the ARHP. This exercise will be continued next quarter.

The right to universal access to antiretroviral treatment

Formation of regional coalition of UCAART in Sunyani

- ✚ The interim committee organized a meeting. The objective was for membership drive and the target was civil society organizations working on reproductive health and in HIV/AIDS. About 25 representatives from invited organizations attended the meeting. Outcomes of the meeting were:
- ✚ That the formation of a regional coalition for Free and universal Access to ART was very imperative in the region and the activities of the national UCAART should be replicated in the Brong-Ahafo region.
- ✚ That the campaign for free access to ART should continue in the region and that the abolishing of the ART fees of 50,000 by government should be the main objective of the regional campaigns.
- ✚ That the interim committee formed after the Tamale workshop should continue working as interim executives of the regional coalition. Four new organizations should be co-opted onto the committee.
- ✚ That the coalition should endeavor to ensure that PLWHAs should be made part and parcel of the coalition and to take active part in their activities.
- ✚ The 2006 World Aids day celebration should be high on the agenda of the regional coalition.
- ✚ Fund raising by the regional coalition should be carried out rigorous and should not rely so much on the national coalition for funding.
- ✚ Organizations in the Brong-Ahafo region whose parents organization are members of the national coalition should be made to officially inform their regional branches to take active part in their activities.

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Campaign:

The coalition in the period embarked on social mobilisation and capacity-building workshops for community members of two of the four major mining enclaves in the country in Oda and Obuasi, Organised a national strategic planning meeting, Issued a civil society communiqué on the implementation of EITI in Ghana and Launch the Ghana PWYP Coalition

In general, discussions have centred on the relationship between mining companies and the communities in which they operate. In particular, issues on crop compensation, lack of transparency in the disbursement of mineral royalties from the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands, environmental cost and compensation, livelihood insecurity, and human right abuses perpetrated by mining companies, working in tandem with state security agencies have been the most nagging concerns.

Ghana produced an inception report on the EITI in December.

The report captured observations and issues under:

- ✚ Payments
- ✚ Receipts
- ✚ Disbursements
- ✚ Utilizations

Key Issues from Report were as follows

- ✚ Non payment of Corporate Income Taxes by companies until recently

- ✚ Non payment of Capital Gain taxes
- ✚ Lack of inter-sectoral collaboration among mining sector gov't agencies and IRS
- ✚ Delay in payment of royalties to beneficiary institutions
- ✚ Lack of documentation on payments
- ✚ Lack of separate account for royalty
- ✚ Non payment of dividend withholding taxes
- ✚ Inconsistencies in mineral valuation
- ✚ Lack of guidelines for the utilization of royalties
- ✚ What are our concerns
- ✚ Utilization of percentage paid to mineral development fund
- ✚ Expanding the number of participating companies
- ✚ Effective ways of addressing key issues identified in inception report

Campaign for Free Universal Access to Basic Education

The goal of the fee-free education campaign is to contribute to poverty reduction through the realization of basic rights, especially the right to basic quality education for all children irrespective of their circumstances by 2015.

This campaign is being pursued on three fronts

- ✚ Through the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition which ISODEC chairs
- ✚ Serving as the regional lead agency for the Northern Network for Education Development (NNED) in Northern region
- ✚ Through the Girl child education programme (GCEP) supported by the Ambassador Girls Scholarship Programme

Capacity Building (for DEFATs) & a Validation Workshops

A number of capacity building workshops on capitation grant tracking and text book availability were organized by NNED to build the capacity of DEFATs in the region for the tracking of the capitation grant. There were also Capacity building workshops facilitated by ISODEC NGP for DEFATs in East Gonja and Bole District on Rights-Based Advocacy and gender. A validation workshop was at Savelugu District Assembly Hall on the findings on gender parity. A similar workshop was organized in Tamale at the Institute of Local Government Studies for Tolong/Kunbungu DEFATs and stakeholders in education. All these were aimed at strengthening CSO to monitor policy implementation in their districts. Findings from the capitation grant tracking in selected districts were shared with stakeholders in education through the organization of dissemination workshop at Saboba and Salaga.

ISODEC led GNECC to the 2006 Education Sector Annual Review Workshop

Preceding this year's ESAR meeting in Accra, GNECC and NNED took part in a three-day workshop organized by GNECC with all stakeholders from the other regions. This was for CSO to strategize for the ESAR. After the ESAR in Accra a meeting of selected NNED members was facilitated by SODEC to discuss the outcome of the ESAR and develop strategies to address issues relating to Northern Ghana. The plans have been incorporated into NNED work plan for year 2007. The civil society position paper at the 2006 ESAR was presented for and on behalf of civil society by the ISODEC

Study on quality education-how the north is faring.

ISODEC NGP did a desk study on quality education in Northern Ghana, including analysis of both BECE and SSCE results from year 2003-2005 for northern region. The finding has been published and disseminated widely.

The Girl Child Education Programme

This programme is implemented with support from the Ambassador Girls Scholarship Programme. During the period under review the following activities were undertaken.

✚ Scholarship

A total amount of ₵664,079,950 was budgeted to cater for 700 needy girls for the 2005/06 academic year. We were however able to cater for additional 13 girls. For the 2006/07 academic year a total of ₵595,366,650 has so far been spent from the AGSP Accounts. This year we are catering for 820 needy girls.

✚ Scholarship Items

The beneficiary girls have been given the following items: text books, exercise books, school uniform, pens, pencils, rulers mathematical sets and footwear. Bicycles have also been supplied to girls who commute long

distance to school. This year the girls were given bicycle tyres and tubes. Each girl is also given a maxi bag of grain (millet/maize) according to their choice.

Sensitization

We have held sensitization meetings with the PTAs of all the schools that are on the programme. Being predominantly illiterate societies, there is the need to keep drumming the message repeatedly to achieve the desired behavioural change. The issues discussed at those meetings centre around the following:

- The rights of the child, especially to education
- The benefits of girl-child education. Parents usually asked to state the benefits of girl-child education. Parents are also asked to identify the reasons for the high drop-out rate among girls.
- The use of the bicycles. Parents are made to understand that the bikes are to facilitate the girl-child's movement to and from school. Therefore, under no circumstance should parents ride them or give to the girls other siblings to run family errands.
- Regular school attendance. Both parents and teachers are to monitor girls school attendance.
- Gender stereotyping. Parents are educated to share household chores equally to the child irrespective of their sex. Teachers should not allocate roles to pupils on gender basis.
- Parents are usually reminded of their parental roles of ensuring that the girls are not exposed to bad influences e.g. video/film shows in the night, dances and festivals that take place in the night.
- The high prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancies.

Mentoring

The mentoring activities were two, viz:

- HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease/infections
- Exposure to role models and moral education

The HIV/AIDS and STDs/STIs centred on the following topics and were handled by personnel from Ghana Health Services in the various districts.

- Meaning of the acronyms: HIV and AIDS
- Mode of transmission
- Incubation (window) period
- Signs and symptoms
- Voluntary counselling and Testing (VCT)
- HIV/AIDS management
- Transmission rates among males and females
- prevention
- Anti-Retroviral Therapy
- Complications

Exposure to role models

The role models first of all asked the girls to tell them what they would like to be in future. The girls individually mentioned different professions, including being President of Ghana and UN Secretary General.

The girls were told that they were capable of attaining those professions or positions. The role models then asked the girls how they could attain those professions or positions and the following were their responses.

- Should take studies seriously
- Avoid sex and early pregnancies
- Obey their teachers
- Should not attend dances and video shows in the night
- Should be accompanied by another girl if invited by teacher or any man to his house.
- Should avoid studying with a boy alone in the night
- Should report their parents to authorities of GES if they are to be forcibly given out for marriage or any activity that will affect their education.
- NGOs, GES and other stakeholders should continue to sensitize their parents on the benefits of girl-child education.
- Sending girls on educational tours
- NGOs should support needy girls.

The girls were praised for their brilliant answers. The resource persons wanted to know from the girls why they were not matching the boys boot for boot in class and why teenage pregnancies and high drop-out rates. The following were the answers from the girls.

- Poverty makes some of them to give themselves to men in order to get money.
- They are overburdened with household chores like sweeping, fetching water, cooking, washing of utensils etc whilst the boys are not required to do so. These lead to loss of concentration in class.
- Parents do not value girls education and can sometimes stop them from schooling or stop supporting them.
- Girls who keep bad company i.e. peer influence.
- Some boys call virgins or girls who keep away from boys derogatory names, sometimes referring to them as “colo” girls.

The role models took time to share their personal life experiences with the girls. They told them of the hardships and temptations they encountered as school girls, both at home and in school, and how they were able to overcome them. They urged the girls to shun money, fancy dresses, immediate pleasures and rather concentrate on their books. They also dispelled the notion that boys are more intelligent than girls.

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

The Rights to Health Campaign

- Alliance for reproductive health rights

The Alliance is currently made up of 35 national and community based organizations in over 250 communities in under served communities and public agencies engaged in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in Ghana. It seeks to push forward the gains made in SRH through various initiatives, incorporate lessons learned through previous efforts and deepen the rights-based dimension of members interventions. The membership of the Alliance includes zonal non-governmental organizations(ZNGOs) Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) responsible for the Northern Zone made up of programmes in the Upper West, Upper East, Northern and Brong Ahafo Regions; Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP) responsible for the Mid-Ghana Zone made up of programmes in the Brong Ahafo, Ashanti and Eastern Regions; and Centre for Community Studies, Action and Development (CENCOSAD) responsible for the Southern Zone made up of programmes in the Western, Central, Greater Accra and Volta Regions and local, community-based partners who were involved in the FRHP as well as institutional collaborators from the public, private and civil society sectors.

The Campaign for Improved Livelihoods through trade

As part of a 3-year market access programme involving Ghana and Burkina Faso and supported by Oxfam and Comic Relief, ISODEC was involved in a number of activities in the market access programme. This programme focuses on building the supply and capacity constraints of five producer groups in Ghana and three producer groups in Burkina Faso. The partnership in the implementation of this programme includes, in Ghana: Market Access Promotion Network (MAPRONET), the General Agriculture Workers Union (GAWU), the Peasant Farmers Association (PFAG) and in Burkina Faso: Commite Paysane de Faso (CPF) and ORCADE. ISODECs role involved

- Carrying out a baseline data collection on the five producer groups and making an analysis of the situation affecting the producers;
- Undertaking a study of the existing physical barriers that hinder trade between Ghana and Burkina Faso on the Tema – Paga route and;
- A roundtable to discuss findings of the study on physical barriers;
- Participation in organizing a sub regional integration week in April.

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Campaign:

Since July 2006, the membership of the Ghana PWYP Coalition has grown to twenty, and includes organizations such as Friends of the Nation, the Ghana Trades Union Congress, Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL), Civic Response, Forest Watch, the Ghana Catholic Secretariat, League of Environmental Journalists, NEWENERGY, Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM), Ghana Integrity Initiative, CASOLS, Community Rights Foundation, The Ghana Catholic Secretariat, Centre for Democratic Development-Ghana, the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), and several community-based organisations.

In 2006 PWYP Ghana intensify its mobilization and collaboration work, culminating in the formal launch of the PWYP-Ghana Coalition in October, 2006.

The coalition in the period embarked on

- ✚ social mobilisation and capacity-building workshops for community members of two of the four major mining enclaves in the country in Ada and Obuasi.
- ✚ Organised a national strategic planning meeting
- ✚ Issued a civil society communiqué on the implementation of EITI In Ghana
- ✚ Launch the Ghana PWYP Coalition

Joint Campaign with Public Agenda: Against Mining at the Atewa Forest

- ✚ On August 7, Public Agenda brought to public attention attempts by the government to give out the Atewa Forest to Alcoa for the mining of bauxite. This follows a report by Conservation International which was commissioned to undertake a study to prove whether the forest had bauxite deposits. The report confirmed that the forest had common and endangered species of great significance to local communities. Apart from its tourism potential, the Atewa forest has streams which serve as sources of drinking water for the local people. The thrust of our advocacy was to raise national and international awareness on yet another attempt by a foreign company to destroy the environment and livelihoods for the sake of profit. It is not known yet what has happened after the publication. Whatever the case, we would be following up on this in 2007.
- ✚ In October, Public Agenda gave an in-depth report on plans by Denver-based multinational mining corporation Newmont to construct an open pit gold mine in Ajenjua Bepor Forest Reserve located at Abirem in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The company's move generated heated debate and intense haggling between officials of Newmont Ghana Ltd and those of the Environmental Protection Agency. At the centre of the proposed open pit mine and its post mining reclamation plans was EPA's fears that it would have long term environmental public safety implications. The two protagonists kept details of the negotiations from the public eye until, Public Agenda obtained leaked copies of the environmental impact assessment and published it. But for the publication, there was every indication that the EPA would have backed down on its insistence on the right thing to be done and our communities would have been worse for it.

Campaign for Free Universal Access to Basic Education

Although the right to free basic education campaign is still being pursued through the GNECC and NNED, ISODEC has sought collaboration with Public Agenda to expand the campaign but also used the news prints to reach the reading audience.

- ✚ Since 2005, Public Agenda has been collaborating with the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition and the Northern Network on Education in producing a special supplement on education aimed at bringing to the fore the inequities in the country's educational system within the framework of ISODEC's RBA Programme. ISODEC currently is Chairman of GNECC. The four editions that have been produced so far have exposed the chronic shortage of teachers in the rural areas, poor teaching aid, poor infrastructure and the yawning gap between the rich and the poor in access to education.
- ✚ In November, Public Agenda gave wide publicity to the deplorable state of basic education in the three northern regions based on a research undertaken by the Northern Network of Education Development (NNED), which showed that the quality of primary and secondary education had fallen abysmally within the last three years in the northern region in particular. According to the details, on average, some 82.1 % of all students who attempted the SSSCE from 2003 to 2005 could not obtain the minimum entry requirement for admission to any tertiary institution. For the basic education certificate examination, an average of 44 percent males and 56 percent females who sat for the exams in the region over the same period failed to qualify for SSS. A breakdown of the school by school results are just unbelievable. (see Nov. 27, 2006 edition of Public Agenda details). Public Agenda took an editorial position on the issue. Titled, "Salvaging the Education in the North", the editorial drew the attention of policy makers to the Directive Principles of State Policy of the 1992 Constitution, which underscored the importance of equity dimensions of tackling educational problems across the country. The paper openly told the government it must commit more resources to education in areas that are lagging behind, especially the three northern regions. and also pointed out that government's overall goal of promoting growth and reducing poverty will fail or succeed depending on the quality and level of education in marginalized areas like the north. Hence the need for a conscious effort towards correcting geographical imbalance in education.

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?

- ✚ ISODEC is still highly regarded as credible and effective in its communities work and its inputs into public policy debate are respected. During the period under review these moderate achievements attest to this conclusion.
- ✚ The campaigns and advocacy on Trade and Livelihoods section has drawn government's attention to pertinent issues affecting the lives of rural farmers. These farmers, for a long time, have never realized that they could express an opinion on their area of specialization. Now they have come together and can make their views known to the government and other stakeholders, with the hope that it can lead to a better deal for rural farmers. The ISODEC supported legal case of the poultry farmers association against the Government of Ghana through CEPIL has won the administration of many and also noted by the committee of experts who worked on the Ghana APRM Report.
- ✚ **Awards:** The impact of ISODEC supported Public Agenda's advocacy journalism did not escape the eyes of the awards committees of HelpAge Media Awards and the Ghana Journalists Association Media Awards Committee. In March this year, *Public Agenda* won the HelpAge Award for being the print media with the highest reportage on the rights and policy issues impacting positively on the aged. The award came with a 21 inch LG TV. Then in May this year, the paper won the first ever 'Human Rights and Development Prize to awarded to a newspaper. The award was accompanied by a Dell desktop computer and sponsored by Journalists for Human Rights, a Canadian NGO. This clear indication that ISODEC continues support of Public Agenda within its RBA framework is worthy.

3. 1 Output ranking on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered				
#	Outputs presented in submitted Workplan	Target groups that received or used the output delivered	Documents describing output delivery	Attached Copy yes/no
1	Pro-poor budget analysis, tracking and research	<p>The beneficiaries of the CBA's budget advocacy work are the many poor and marginalized citizens who are not able to access better service delivery due to poverty. Improved resource allocation and increased focus on the social sector, such as education and health would improve their lot. The numbers of Assembly members, staff and CSOs who have gone through our budget training both in Ghana and Sierra Leone are among the numerous beneficiaries of the CBA's work. The training has enhanced their capacity for their work as well as their individual family budgets.</p> <p>Since the presentation of the 2007 Budget to Parliament, the CBA has joined several panelists, including Ministers of State to discuss various aspects of the Budget on radio and television. This is a clear indication that the Ghanaian public has seen some benefits in our contributions and that policy makers stand to benefit from them.</p> <p>The campaigns and advocacy of Trade and Livelihoods section has drawn government's attention to pertinent issues affecting the lives of rural farmers. These farmers, for a long time, have never realized that they could express an opinion on their area of specialization. Now they have come together and can make their views known to the government and other stakeholders, with the hope that it can lead to a better deal for rural farmers.</p>	2006 budget analysis	yes No No No
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.	Extract of education sector budget.	No

5	Networking and coalition building	<p>The Right to health Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights <p>The Alliance has been launched and started implementation. The beneficiaries include 12 community based organisation, the Ghana health service, MOH and communities(Women and Men and youth of reproductive health age)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The campaign for universal access to anti-retroviral has been launched in Sunyani 	Reports	Yes
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.	<p>Report/ Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society communiqué on the EITI In Ghana Ghana inception report 	Yes
7	Youth in governance	4 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

3.2 Please explain the basis of the ranking; what criteria were you using for the ranking?

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 – **4 score**

Number of direct Beneficiaries – individuals or networks –**3 score** ; Number of indirect beneficiaries – **2 score** ; Direct benefit for ISODEC – **1 score**

<p>4. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change / results in the following areas please refer to the self-assessment formats for more detail</p>
<p>4.1 Strategy, planning, decision making, knowledge management</p> <p>The final draft of the proposal of the RBA III has been circulated to some donors for funding. However the final evaluation could not be carried out due to unavailability of consultant. This will be done in the first quarter of 2007. This document will be finalised after a participatory evaluation for the RBA II</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>4.2 Funding base development and financial management</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>The fundraising strategy has been developed.</p>
<p>4.3 Recruitment, development and retention of staff; HR planning; incentives</p> <p>4 Economics students for the University of Ghana were recommended by the Legon Economics students association to CBA ISODEC and have been accepted for the service year 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>4.3 Organisational structure, board, management team</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>4.4 Marketing, public relations, communication</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>5. Grant and report related issues</p>
<p>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.</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>5.2 Please indicate any issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management, monitoring or financial procedures.</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"> 1. Increase programme funding 2. Organisational Development Issues (ability to recruit and maintain quality staff. Retooling and update of management processes) <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>5.3 Please indicate any aspects of this report which are confidential and should not be communicated beyond G-RAP without prior consent.</p> <p>There is no aspect of this report that is confidential</p>