

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

version 50622

General information	
Name of the Organisation: Northern Ghana Network for Dev	Contract Ref. No.: 02/Core/34/NGND
Report Prepared by: Mohammed Aziz Signature:	Report Period: July 06- Dec 06
Report Approved by: Ismail Lansah Signature:	Report Date: 22 nd January 07
	Contact Tel. No.: 071-24797

1. What changes did you see in pro-poor government policies (in design, implementation or review)? How did such change come about and what is your interpretation of the changes?

The NetWork has in the past three years trained a number of NGOs and CBOs in 12 districts in the use of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation tools such as the Citizens Scorecard and the Citizens' Report Card to evaluate the quality of social services in their communities as well as the use of the District Assemblies Common Fund.

Three of such citizens' groups had organized public hearing of the district plans and budgets and three other districts CBOs evaluated the quality of basic education. The training in participatory monitoring and evaluation has equipped the CBOs with skills to logically assess social services in their communities and has also empowered them to participate in the administration of their districts.

At a Public Sensitization Forum organized by the Vuum Tree Planters Association in the Builsa, the District Coordinating Director remarked that the "citizens' group has present a scientific and logical assessment of the performance of the district in the provision of quality basic education that no one can challenge. Very useful information has been provided to us in the assembly, we hope this kind of empowerment will be used positively to maintain the window of dialogue that has been opened by this public forum"

Mata N Tudu Association after having evaluated the quality of basic education in the Bunkprugu/Yinyou District has requested to make their input the District Assembly is preparing their budget for 2007.

Citizen groups can now influence government policies at the district level in many of the 34 districts of northern Ghana because of the acquisition of skills in participatory monitoring and evaluation. The poor are thus able to use simple but scientific means to review government programs that affect them directly through the use of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation tools such as the Citizen's Scorecards. They are also able influence the quality of implementation of social services in the communities. What is needed now is to formalize citizen's participation and not make it a one off involvement in local level governance.

2. Collaboration and networking

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

Twelve Districts have actively supported Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation by citizen groups of social services in Water and Sanitation as well as education. The Bongo District has requested the Network to facilitate a training workshop for senior staff of decentralized department in the district so that the Scorecard will be used to compare the performance of the various decentralized department in the district. The Country Director of DFID accepted an invitation by the Network to participate in discussion on the "the Multi Donor Budget Support (MDDBS) and its implication on service delivery by NGOs in Tamale on January 17, 2007. 30 Local and international CSO leaders participated in the discussions. The Network in the past eight month has hosted interaction meetings between NGOs and four District Assemblies (DAs). The DAs and NGOs were able to harmonize their operations.

The Network also trained 60 CBO members in three operational districts of the Ghanaian Danish Development Association (GDCA) in the use of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation tools for social accountability. The planned meeting of the Network Executive Committee and the 10 MPs of the DAs and DCEs of the five selected districts in northern region to benefit from the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) has been shifted to February 2007. The meeting will discuss how to maximise benefits to be derived from the MCA.

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

The Network has participated in a number of networking activities. We actively participated in the ROA Convention and have been coordinating the UNDP CSO consultations in the three regions of the north for the establishment of a CSO Resource Centre. We also hosted the NGO Standards Commission consultation workshop in Tamale. All these have deepened our collaboration with coalitions and other RAOs in the country.

One of the core functions of the Network Secretariat is to assist member organizations in fund raising from donor sources. 5 member organizations have been supported to prepare proposals to source funding from two RAVI Intermediary organizations Simli Aid and GDCA to implement rights based projects.

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?

There are all indications that the government of Ghana through Ministries, Department and Agencies now recognize the potentials of CSO especially RAOs to contribute to good governance and accountability but to a large extent this has been due to donor demands rather than a political culture or evolution. Civil Society in Ghana needs to put its act together and revive the umbrella organization to be an effective and efficient representative of Civil Society. This, complemented with the NGO Standards Commission will boost the credibility of CSO and especially RAOs more in the country. NGND is on the Standard Commission's Board.

3.1 Output ranking on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered;				
Please rank the outputs in order of relative success, according to your own appreciation and evaluative judgment				
#	Outputs presented in submitted Workplan	Target groups that received or used the output delivered	Documents describing output delivery	Attached Copy yes/no
1	School management and administration improved in two districts in northern Ghana	-Ghana Education Service-District offices of Sandema and Bunkpurugu -Commonwealth Education Fund country office -PTA/SMC members in the three districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Scorecard Training Manual ▪ Community scorecard matrices for the three districts ▪ Report of the evaluation 	No yes
2	Improved financial record keeping by CSOs in the region	12 Accounts staffs from Local NGOs/CBOs	Mentoring and Monitoring visits report	no
3	NGO staff equipped with skills in basic proposal writing	13 out of 29 Local NGOs/CBOs trained have been selected for funding by Ibis Good Governance Project	Copies of proposals developed by NGOs/CBOs	no
4	Active collaboration between District Assemblies and Government agencies	NGOs/CBOs, Communities, MDAs	Signed attendance list in District Assemblies and CSO programs	no
5	Human resource development	Staff members of the organisation	Receipts of part payment of course fees	no
3.2 Please explain the basis of the ranking; what criteria were you using for the ranking?				
First we decided on one that is most related to research and advocacy and secondly , one that has caused greater impact to a wider constituency				

4. Organisation: evidence of <u>significant</u> progress / change / results in the following areas
4.1 Strategy, planning, decision making, knowledge management
A review of our 3-year strategic plan has been done and modifications have been noted to be discussed and effected at this years' Annual General Assembly. Decision-making is more transparent and gender audit to be conducted by independent consultant in 2007. Thus, unless there is a female participation in a board meeting, all decisions have to be ratified at a later date by the female members absent.
4.2 Funding base development and financial management
Funds have been generated from consultancy services and also payments from training programs Our funding base has widened as a result of admitting more organisations into our membership. There is also now more competent Auditors regulating and auditing our finances.
4.3 Recruitment, development and retention of staff; HR planning; incentives
Two more staff have been hired an Administrative Assistant and Accountant. Staff retention rate is high because of competitive remuneration. Three staffs have been supported by the Network to pay course fees and are given study leave. They have signed an undertaken to serve the Network for two years after their training. Two other staffs were supported to attend relevant short term courses in Research Methods and Report writing.
4.3 Organisational structure, board, management team
The Executive Committee held four quarterly meeting in addition to the first one in January 2006 to approve on the year's annual plan. The Executive Director participated in three regional chapter meetings during the period.
4.4 Marketing, public relations, communication
The Network Secretariat has concluded negotiations to establish a website for the Network in 2007

5. Grant and report related issues
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.
[not shared]
5.2 Please indicate any issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management, monitoring or financial procedures.
5.3 Please indicate any aspects of this report which are confidential and should not be communicated beyond G-RAP without prior consent.
[section 5.1]