

## ANNEX 5

### Narrative Progress Report

**Report period** January-June 2007

**Contract Ref. No.** 01/CORE/01/ABANTU

**Organisation** ABANTU for Devt.


**Contact Tel. No.** 021-246495

**Report Date** July 23, 2007

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**Signature & date**



**Report Approved by** Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin  
**Signature & date**



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*Please do not write in green coloured sections; refer to notes at last page for explanations*

### 1. National pro-poor policies

**What do you think were the most important changes in pro-poor government policies in the last six months? What were the main causes? What contribution did your organisation make to any of these changes?**

The response to this question attempts to relate ABANTU's areas of work with changes being noted at the government level. While ABANTU cannot claim in total, all successes on issues of governance and gender issues, it can safely say its work has contributed to whatever changes are going on. During the period, there was greater attention paid to issues of decentralisation and some efforts were made towards reviewing the legislation around decentralisation. Issues relating to gender sensitivity were considered in these initiatives. ABANTU can claim to be contributing strategically to raising awareness on the need to engender local governance.

### 2. Public image

**How has the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public? What is your interpretation? Is there a reference to this evidence of change?**

The government has virtual love-hate relationship with RAOs. On the one hand, it sees civil society as relevant and therefore makes an attempt to engage with them. On the other hand, the government sees NGOs as oppositional and tends to ignore critical evidence generated by NGOs for enhancing citizens' participation in governance processes. It is important to point out however that these two positions are not mutually exclusive and tend to interact within the public space. With specific reference to gender issues, in spite of the awareness that has been created, the government continues to pay lip service to women's empowerment as for example, in how it has ignored the whole issue of affirmative action. ABANTU has worked hard on issues relating to 50/50 representation in governance processes. This work needs to be strengthened during the rest of the year to ensure that it gains momentum in the 2008 elections. Reflection meetings held with elected, appointed and others who lost in the district elections point to the fact that women are willing and ready to take up responsibility in the public space. Coalition-building efforts must be enhanced to facilitate the change that is required.

### 3. Collaboration, coalitions and networking

**Using the format below, list the most important organisations you collaborated with over the period, under each of the sectors listed below. For each organisation, give an indication of the issues or themes you worked on, its status and the outcomes.**

	<b>Organisation or coalition</b>	<b>Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Government - executive - judiciary</b>	MOWAC (Dept of Women); Ghana Prison	Promotion of women's participation in local governance; promotion of the	Greater sensitivity to women's rights issues in politics; possibility exists for

<b>- legislature</b>	Service	rights of women in prisons	promoting affirmative action
<b>Coalition, network</b>	NETRIGHT, DV-Coalition, Women's Manifesto Coalition, National Mining Coalition	Women's rights, implementation of the domestic violence law, promotion of the rights of women in mining communities, affirmation of women's place in history	Strengthened women's movement; enhanced capacity to mobilize women for critical action
<b>RAO, NGO, I-NGO</b>	AfriMap, Ibis West Africa, TWN, Women in Broadcasting, FES, WILDAF, ILGS	African Peer Review Mechanism, Aid Effectiveness, promotion of the rights of women in prisons, Promotion of women's participation in local governance	Deepening West African perspectives on gender issues; innovativeness in promoting gender issues in critical policy issues
<b>Donor institution</b>	DANIDA, CIDA, AWDF, AAG	Promotion of women's participation in local governance	Credibility and accountability enhanced
<b>CBO/DA (please indicate district)</b>	AMA, TMA, GWDA, Akuapim North DA, Kwaebibirim, Asuogyaman	Pilot mentoring programme in governance for young senior secondary school graduates	Linking grassroots issues with youth work and empowerment initiatives
<b>Other</b>			

#### 4. Outputs on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered

List the outputs as you have presented in the Workplan submitted to G-RAP.

Make sure that you:

- Indicate estimated levels of completion per output
- Indicate target groups that used / received the output delivered
- Attach copy of concept paper per output
- Attach copy of product output

Outputs presented in submitted Workplan	Estimated levels of completion	Target groups that received or used the output delivered	Copy of concept paper <sup>1</sup> / output attached
One (1) workshop on the workings of the district assembly system for 40 people (Western Region)	100%	Elected and appointed district assemblywomen, media	No / No
One (1) workshop on the workings of the district assembly system for 40 people (Volta Region)	100%	Elected and appointed district assemblywomen, media	No / No
Fact sheet on gender and peacekeeping	100%	Women, policy makers, NGOs, students and academics, media	No / Yes
Newsletter on Women in Governance	100%	Women, policy makers, NGOs, students and academics, media	No / Yes

<sup>1</sup> Some of the activities do not require concept paper.

Mentoring in governance for female SSS graduates	80%	Thirteen (13) female SSS graduates	Yes / No
Fact Sheet on Schools Outreach Programme	80%	Students, resource persons, NGOs, media	No / Yes
Resource Centre Update		Students, media, NGOs, activists, policy makers	No / No
Profiling of women in various sectors	50%	Users of ABANTU website	No / No
Book on ABANTU's biennial conference	100%	Policy makers, NGOs, activists, students	No / Yes

## 5. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change

What are major changes in the organisation's circumstances that are likely to have impacted your outputs over the period?

- **Organisational structure / board / management team**
- **Strategy / planning / decision making / knowledge management**
- **Human resource issues**
- **Marketing / communication / public relations**

At the end of 2006, ABANTU organised an end of year meeting which enabled us to assess our performance and plan for 2007. One of the critical issues that came up was the need to develop a succession plan that would enable the Regional Programme Manager (RPM) to dedicate more time to conceptual issues of the organisation and play a more active leadership role in the public domain on civil society issues. One programme staff therefore takes additional responsibility to manage the day-to-day running of the organisation. This has enhanced a sense of leadership among all other staff of the organisation and the RPM is no more the centre of all decision-making. This has been facilitated by the enhanced learning culture of the organisation.

ABANTU's financial management is one of its highest and most cherished qualities. Both formal and informal training opportunities for the FAO and the strong feedback culture in the organisation have strengthened effectiveness. ABANTU has lost its core funding status with Ford Foundation at the end of March 2007. The argument by Ford is that ABANTU is well-positioned to benefit from other sources of funds after several years of benefiting from Ford. ABANTU has applied to Olof Palme Foundation and the Global Fund for Women for funds during the period. It is hoped that these funds would be secured.

Additional staff has been recruited for ABANTU's advocacy programme. National Service Personnel and interns are also engaged to support the work of the organisations. Staff morale is high because everyone has a chance to learn and share in the views of the organisation. No staff has left the organisation as commitment is high. Salaries are reasonable and hard work is rewarded.

The organisational structure of ABANTU remains strong, ensuring that the board actively contribute to effective leadership and decision-making. Board members are regularly updated on decisions made during board meeting and how such decisions are being implemented. During the period, one board member participated in the World Social Forum on behalf of the organisation.

ABANTU can be referred to as a "brand name" for gender and policy advocacy work, for the promotion of gender equality and for constantly engaging with different actors on the transformational change project. It has retained its strong relationship with the media through the organisation of press conferences, radio interviews, publications and other information materials. It is a primary site for reference for information and data on gender and governance issues, peace building and poverty.

## 6. Grant and report related issues

### 6.1 What issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management?

Challenges during the period include the lack of core funding from Ford Foundation which meant that G-RAP funds had to be used more for salaries and other office running costs while project funds were secured from ActionAid Ghana and African Women's Development Fund for activities outlined for implementation in the

workplan. Another major challenge continues to be the sheer expectation from our constituents and the limited resources available to expand the reach of our programmes. Staff workload continues to be a big issue which the organisation has to deal with. Another critical issue is how to follow through a number of initiatives to ensure that policy makers actually act on the issues we raise on the need to promote gender equality.

At the end of the grant period, it is hoped that ABANTU's core grant will be increased to ensure its ability to deliver quality services to its constituents as well as enhance its quest in promoting the gender equality project.

**6.2 What parts of the report are confidential or cannot be shared without prior consent?**

None.