

Narrative Progress Report**Report period** January – June 2007**Contract Ref. No.** 01/core/31/IEA**Organisation** The Institute of Economic Affairs**Contact Tel. No.** 021- 7010713/4**Report Date** 25th July, 2007**Report Prepared by** Mrs Charity Osei Amponsah,
Research Assistant & Abena
Offe, Programmes Coordinator**Report Approved by** Mrs Jean Mensa,
Administrator**Signature & date****Signature & date**

70714

*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 Social Investment Fund (SIF)**

This is a Government policy which was implemented under the Ghana Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy I. The SIF, during the period January to June 2007, provided funds to the various District Assemblies for the provision of facilities which will enhance skills training. The SIF promotes the interest of women and provides micro-credit Schemes which give loans to women to help them expand their production base. This change came about as a result of the need to decentralize the SIF project to ensure effective delivery of services. The IEA views this as a laudable idea since it will bring about the necessary changes in the lives of the people in a relatively short period in order to raise their standard of living.

The Institute conducted research on the determinants of poverty (focusing on fishmongers in Jamestown). The study recommended that programmes enabling women to take control of their fertility are likely to help reduce poverty. Therefore, the Government through the Ministry of Health should encourage the education of women in the use of modern family planning methods. There is also the need for Government and its relevant agencies to expand micro-credit facilities for these fishmongers. They should also be educated on basic petty cash accounting through the extension services of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in order to improve their ability to market their produce better.

National Health Insurance Scheme

The introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme in 2005 is another major pro -poor policy designed to help the poor and financially weak sections of the population. The Programme is communally- based and is built on the principle of cross-subsidization. It has brought to an end, the old system of paying upfront for medical treatment; a policy under which many poor Ghanaians could not access health facilities. Registration for the NHIS increased over the period under review, and the programme was also expanded to the various towns and villages in Ghana. The IEA monitored the activities of the NHIS to be able to understand the challenges of the Scheme and suggest possible solutions.

The Institute commissioned a paper and held a debate on *The National Health Insurance Policy Framework: What Everybody Must Know*. The paper examined the general policy framework, the benefit package, the registration process and healthcare use. It also analysed the results of the scheme in some areas in the country where it is being implemented. The paper recommended that there was the need for more public education on the benefits of the scheme to encourage more people to register to be part of the scheme.

School Feeding Programme

The introduction of the NEPAD School Feeding Programme is also a major poverty-reduction policy. Under the Programme, school children will be treated to one hot meal a day to sustain their interest in School and help meet their nutritional requirements. It is estimated that 700 schools will join the Programme by 2007. The effect has been a massive push-up in School enrolment.

The School Feeding programme continued under the review period with more schools being included in the programme. The introduction of these programmes has reduced the harshness of health and education policies to make the attainment of the targets under the Millennium Development Goals possible. This is because the programme led to an increase in the enrolment rate for primary school all over the country.

The Institute conducted research on *Funding Basic Education in Ghana: The Challenges, Prospects and the Way Forward*. It recommended that the school feeding programme if sustained would contribute greatly to the physical and mental growth of Ghanaian children and would be an added incentive to enrolling the hardest to reach children.

Micro-Financing

During the period, the Government with the assistance of the National Board for Small-Scale Industries administered micro-credit to small scale businesses operators. The Micro-Finance and Loan Centre was created to ensure the effective management of the micro-credit scheme. This is a pro-poor policy which seeks to provide funds at a relatively lower interest rate for small-scale businesses to help them increase their production base. This is a good intervention which is a sustainable way of ensuring the provision of sufficient and continuous income. The living standards of the people are therefore made better than when there was no such intervention.

The IEA is conducting research in the area of micro-finance to analyse the challenges and recommend better ways of operating the Scheme. Research is ongoing and will be subjected to public debate after the preliminary findings have been made.

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 credibility and legitimacy of RAO's continues to grow in the eyes of the GOG and the Ghanaian public. RAO's conduct groundbreaking research and make authoritative pronouncements on a wide range of issues. Policy Makers have seen that our Policy Recommendations are relevant and well thought through and continue to consult not only The IEA but other credible RAO's to get their input in formulating policies and programmes.

The IEA was tasked by the Office of Parliament to review the Annual Progress Report on implementing the GPRS 1 and presented its findings at a workshop organised by Parliament. During the period under review, The IEA also played an active role in the videoconferencing of the World Bank's Country Economic Memorandum for Ghana. The IEA was invited as a Peer Reviewer of research articles presented at this Conference. The Institute reviewed a paper for the National Development Planning Commission titled 'Ghana: Country Review Report' which was presented at an International forum in Geneva, Switzerland. The paper recommended that some positive acknowledgements of the contributions of previous Governments in the development of this country be stressed. There is also the need to emphasise the bilateral and consensual nature of several agreements between the current Government and members of Minority Parties in Parliament in various legislations such as the Bank of Ghana Act, 2002, which has largely led to the current macro-economic stability in the country.

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.

	Organisation or coalition	Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending	Outcome
Government - executive - judiciary - legislature	Executive	Conference to review the last Fifty years of Sub-Saharan African development and to discuss and make recommendations for the way forward. (Ended)	The President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E John Agyekum Kufuor gave the Keynote address and set the tone for the discussion. Other members of the executive also participated in the conference namely Hon. Oboshiie Sai, Deputy Minister for Information, Hon. Paa Kwesi Nduom, Minister of State in charge of Public Sector Reform, Hon. O.B Amoah, Deputy Minister of Sports and Hon. Freddie Blay, 1 st Deputy Speaker of Parliament.
	Executive & Judiciary	Launching of Revised Version of the <i>Laws of Ghana</i> (Ended)	The Vice President, H.E John Aliu Mahama gave the Keynote Address and declared the Revised Version of the Laws of Ghana duly launched.
	Legislature & Judiciary	Development of a Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP) which seeks to identify gaps within our democratic practice and make recommendations for reform.(Ongoing)	The team of Consultants working on the DCSP had extensive consultations with the top hierarchy of Parliament and the Judiciary. They reviewed the draft document and contributed extensively to portions regarding Parliamentary and Judiciary reforms. Their views have been captured in the document.
	Legislature	Review and Analysis of the Annual Report of the Implementation of the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy I (GPRS I) (Ended)	The Institute was tasked by the Office of Parliament to review the Annual Progress Report of the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The views of The IEA were presented to the Parliamentary Committee at a Workshop
Coalition, network			
RAO, NGO, I-	NETRIGHT,	Development of a	The team of Consultants had

NGO	ABANTU, ARK Foundation, WILDAF, WABA, FIDA	Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP) which seeks to identify gaps within our democratic practice and make recommendations for reform. (Ongoing)	extensive discussions and received their input on the Gender Chapter of the DCSP. They recommended that a Gender Activist should be contracted to work with the consultants on the Gender chapter.
	ABANTU, WABA, WILDAF, FIDA, MOWAC, Political Parties	Development of Draft Manual on – Towards Women's Empowerment in Decision-Making in the Governance Process (Ongoing)	Development of a Manual to increase the participation of women in the governance process.
Donor institution	CIDA, DANIDA, USAID, British High Commission and the Netherlands Embassy	Development of a Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP) which seeks to identify gaps within our democratic practice and make recommendations for reform. (Ongoing)	The team of Consultants briefed them on the DCSP and made recommendations on various aspects of the document. Their views have been taken into account.
	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy	Strengthening of Multiparty Political Systems (Ongoing)	Levelling the playing field for Political Parties, building the institutional capacity of Political Parties and improving the image of Political Parties in the eyes of the public
	Centre for International Private Enterprise	Building Economic Platforms for Political Parties in Ghana (Ended)	Collaborated with CIPE in bringing together Business and Political Party leaders to equip them with tools on free market.
	European Union Commission and ECOWAS	Policy discussion on Fifty Years of History of the European Union – Sharing our Lessons with Africa (Ended)	The IEA collaborated with the EU, ECOWAS and AU. It afforded the relevant stakeholders the opportunity to learn lessons and share experiences on the process of integration.
	Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF)	West African Economic Freedom Forum (Ongoing)	Collaboration between The IEA, FNF and other think tanks to develop an index that could be used to measure Economic Freedom in West Africa.
CBO/DA (please indicate district)	House of Chiefs, Metropolitan/Municipal/District Chief Executives and Assembly members, National Association of Local Authorities	Development of a Democracy Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP) which seeks to identify gaps within our democratic practice and make recommendations for	The consultants had extensive consultations with traditional leaders, Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies on chieftaincy and decentralisation issues.

	of Ghana	reform. (Ongoing)	
Other		Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) (Ongoing)	The Institute is a member of the Working Group to evaluate the GPRS in the thematic areas of production and gainful employment
	National Planning and Development Commission	The Institute reviewed a paper for the National Development Planning Commission titled 'Ghana: Country Review Report' which was presented at an International forum in Geneva Switzerland. (Ended)	The paper recommended that some positive acknowledgements of the contributions of previous governments in the development of this country be stressed. There is also the need to emphasise the bilateral and consensual nature of several agreements between the current Government and members of position parties in Parliament in various legislations such as the 2002 Bank of Ghana Act, which has largely led to the current macro economic stability in the country.
	University of Cape Coast	Educational and Scientific Research Co-operation (Ongoing)	Collaboration of faculty and staff for research, lectures, discussions and other academic pursuits and exchange of published information

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	LEVELS OF COMPLETION	TARGET GROUPS
RESEARCH		
1. Economic Growth, Expanding Role of Government, and Fiscal Policy in Ghana: 1965-2004	Completed	Policymakers, Members of Parliament, Government Officials, Donors, Academia, Students and the General Public
2. What Factors have Influenced Economic Growth in Ghana	Completed	Policymakers, Members of Parliament, Government Officials, Donors, Academia, Students and the General Public
3. Analysis of the Causality Links Between the Growth of the Construction Industry and the Growth of the Macro-economy in Ghana	Completed	Policymakers, Members of Parliament, Government Officials, Donors, Academia, Students and the General Public
4. Factors that Enabled	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government

Successful Economic Reform and Recovery in Ghana from 1983 to 2006		officials, Developing Partners, Donors, academia, students, Political Parties, the Media and the General Public
5. Economic and Social Policies of Dynamic Southeast Asian Countries: How Applicable are they to Ghana and Africa	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government officials, Developing Partners, Donors, academia, students, Political Parties, the Media and the General Public
6. Determinants of Economic Growth in Ghana	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government officials, Developing Partners, Donors, academia the Media and the General Public
7. Bridging the Gap between Research and Advocacy Organizations (RAOs) and Policymakers	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government officials, Developing Partners, Donors, academia, Research and Advocacy Organisations, the Media and the General Public
8. Maximising Ghana's Debt Relief: What are the Policy Options?	Seventy percent completed	Staff of Bank of Ghana, Economists, Civil Society Organizations, CEPS officials, Ministers of State, media, academicians and the general public.
9. Wagner's Law and the Causal Nexus between Government Expenditure and Tax Receipts: An Empirical Study of Ghana	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government officials, Developing Partners, Donors, Bank of Ghana and the Media.
10. Time for the Delivery of Judgments or Rulings by The Superior Courts of Ghana	Completed	Judges, Lawyers, Ghana Bar Association, Policy Makers, members of Parliament, Government Officials, Developing Partners, Donors, the Media and the General Public
11. Manual on <i>Towards Women's Empowerment in Decision Making in the Governance Process</i>	Ongoing	Political Parties, Women Groups, Civil Society Organisations, Donor Community and the Media
12. The Ghana Police Service: A Practical Agenda for Reform	70% complete Paper yet to be published	The Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Members of Parliament, Policy Makers, Media and the General Public
13. The Ghana Policy Journal	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government officials, Developing Partners, Donors, academia, students, Political Parties, the Media and the General Public
14. Analysis of Ghana's Inflationary Process	70% complete Paper yet to be published	Staff of Bank of Ghana, Economists, Civil Society Organizations, CEPS officials, Ministers of State, media, academicians and the general public.
ADVOCACY		
1. Carrying Everybody along in National Development: An Agenda for Reducing Disparity in Human Welfare	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government officials, Developing Partners, Donors, academia, Political Parties, the Media and the General Public
2. The District Assembly Elections: Preparations so Far	Completed	The Electoral Commission, Candidates for the District Assembly Elections, Media, Civil Society Organisations, Donor Community
3. Women in Local Governance Fund Meeting with Political Party Leaders and Women Caucus in Parliament	Completed	Women Caucus in Parliament, Leaders of Political Parties. Women's Groups and the Media
4. The Doha Round of the	Completed	Policy makers, Members of Parliament, Government

WTO: Issues and Implications for the Ghanaian Economy		officials, Developing Partners, Donors, the Media.
---	--	--

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

Organisational Structure/Board/ Management Team – A Director of Programmes has been recruited as a new member of the Management team. This has impacted positively on the Programmes Unit of The IEA. All Programmes planned for the first half of the year have been efficiently and effectively executed.

Strategy/Planning/Decision making/Knowledge management – The recruitment of the Director of Programmes has brought a change in the strategy and planning of The Institute's programmes. The Programmes Unit now has a single database which is accessible to all Programme Officers. The team meets once a week to review progress made and takes decisions on upcoming programmes. Planning and Reports are also done quarterly. The team meets after each Programme to evaluate it, share lessons learned, challenges faced and chart the way forward. The Research unit also has a database for the compilation of relevant data. It holds monthly research meetings to discuss progress made and new policy relevant areas that can be researched.

Human Resource Issues –As a result of core funding, The Institute has been able to maintain newly-qualified and seasoned Researchers recruited the previous year. The Institute also continued to engage the services of the Director of Research whose mandate is to ensure that both the Governance and Economic Centers focus on and produce papers on hitherto unexploited policy areas. The Programmes Coordinator attended two training workshops on Project Management and Speech writing organised by GRAP and FNF. Research Assistants continue to participate in Conference and Workshops organised by GRAP, other RAO's and Government Agencies.

During the period The Institute recruited a Communications Officer, Marketing and Publications Officer and an Estate Manager. The Communications Officer is in charge of public relations issues of The Institute, selling the Research, Advocacy and Programme outputs and marketing The Institute and what it stands for. The primary function of the Marketing and Publications Officer is to market the publications of The Institute locally and abroad and to raise revenue from the sale of publications. For the first time, an Estate Manager was also employed to see to the maintenance and smooth running of equipment and a well-functioning office.

Marketing/Communication/Public Relations –We are aware of the need for specific improvement on branding our internal and external marketing. We have thus started taking some pro-active steps. The first is our organization of Press Soirees and IEA Fairs to publicize our research, showcase our activities, and make it more readily available to our policy-consuming public. The Institute's publications are being marketed and supplied to bookshops and academic and financial institutions locally and abroad. The Institute's new strategy with regards to public relations is to launch publicly some of its research outputs for example *The Ghana Policy Journal*. The Institute is currently redesigning its website to market its research outputs, publications and programmes.

6. Grant and report related issues

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

No

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

None