

ANNEX 5

Narrative Progress Report

Report period: July – December 2007

Contract Ref. No. 01/CORE/12/CEPA
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Organisation: Centre for Policy Analysis
Report Date: 31 January 2008

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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?

Government is committed to implementing pro-poor policies and achieving the MDGs. There has been a publicly-stated deeper recognition of the spatial aspects of poverty in the country. The 2008 Budget Statement to parliament contained a Special Initiative on Sustainable Development in Northern Ghana. An amount of GH.¢ 25 million, as seed money, was said to have been earmarked for the establishment of a Northern Ghana Development Fund which “will encourage Development Partners to contribute to the Fund”.

The main cause for this Statement was the “recent floods that affected most of the North (which) have exacerbated the (development) gap between Northern Ghana and Southern Ghana”.

The accelerated growth strategy of CEPA is based on Ecological Belts. The most developed component of the strategy is for the Guinea-Savannah Belt, 80 per cent of which comprises Northern Ghana. Workshops have been organised in the context of the Mole Conferences for chiefs and a Technical Committee has been constituted.

In various workshops, seminars, etc., CEPA presentations have drawn attention to the levels, spread and depth of poverty in Northern Ghana – the latest in the last quarter of 2007 was at a CIDA retreat at Elmina.

2. Public image

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

The credibility and legitimacy of RAOs continues to grow. RAOs continue to play critical roles in providing information to Government from the grass root levels. One of the goals of Government is to harness and develop human resource capacity. RAOs are continually proving that they have a wealth of such capacity. Government continues to call on RAOs to provide technical help when required. This could be attributed to the fact that Government realises that RAOs are interested in the goals Government has set especially with regard to poverty reduction and wealth creation.

For CEPA, recognition of our human resource capacity is evident in the fact that CEPA was contracted as the technical team during negotiations for the Stepping Stone Economic Partnership Agreement which was initialled on 13 December 2007. The Office of the President has also conveyed to the Council of CEPA the deep appreciation of the President for the contribution of CEPA to its policy decisions.

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	Min of Trade, Industry, PSD and PSI	Stepping Stone Economic Partnership Agreement. Ongoing.	Initialled SS-EPA on December 13, 2007.
	Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Poverty Reduction	Evaluation of the Annual Progress Report for GPRS II (2006). Ended.	Workshop
	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	Aid Harmonisation and Effectiveness. Starting.	Conference
	Executive	Accelerated Growth Programme for Northern Ghana. Ongoing.	Research reports and workshops.
Coalition, network			
RAO, NGO, I-NGO	G-RAP-RAOs	Engendering G-RAP. Ongoing.	Action Learning Sets
Donor institution	DfID/GTZ	Northern Growth Study. Ongoing.	Workshops and research report.
	GTZ/JICA	Technical Co-operation for Capacity Building. Ongoing.	Research Report and Workshops.
	UNDP/MoFEP	Survey of Business Climate. Ended.	Research Report and Workshop
	TIPCEE	Efficiency of the Exchange Rate Market. Ongoing.	Research Report and Workshops
	TIPCEE	Exchange Rate Regime for a Competitive Export-led Growth Strategy for Ghana. Ongoing.	Research Report and Workshops
	GTZ	Ease/Cost of Starting a Business. Ongoing.	Research Report and Workshops
	GTZ	Ease/Cost of Trading Across Borders. Ongoing.	Research Report and Workshops
CBO/DA (please indicate district)			

Other	CEPA staff sit on the boards of a number of organisations.		
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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

1. Public Finance and Fiscal Operations: The Case for a Fiscal Anchor. Draft attached.
2. From Stabilisation to Growth: Challenges in Inflation, Monetary and Exchange Rate Management. Draft attached.
3. Ease/Cost of Starting a Business. Concept paper attached. Ongoing.
4. Ease/Cost of Trading Across Borders. Concept paper attached. Ongoing.
5. Exchange Rate Regime and Microstructure of Ghana's Foreign Exchange Market. Concept paper attached. Ongoing.
6. Exchange Rate Regime for a Competitive Export-led Growth Strategy for Ghana. Concept paper attached. Ongoing.
7. Technical Co-operation for Capacity Building. Concept paper attached. Ongoing.
8. Presentation at CIDA Retreat. Paper attached.

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

- The Centre for Policy Analysis has had as part of its work programme gender research. However institutionally, it had not actively tried to put in place a gender policy. This is because it had not felt that it has any issues regarding gender in the workplace. In the workplace CEPA has not experienced any turmoils due to gender biases or disparities. Majority of its research staff are women, the Chair of CEPA's Council is also a woman. Out of the nine Council members, four of them are female.

The Gender Action Learning Set has however made the Centre aware of the need to intensify its gender research as well as adopt a gender policy to make it proactive as well as to forestall any future issues as the Centre expands. This is especially important as this is a policy research centre and issues of gender and how it impacts on the well-being of the people of Ghana and the economy cannot be overlooked.

To this end, in its 2008 Budget, the Centre increased its budget on gender research and also has a budget line for Engendering CEPA

- Strategy/planning/decision making/knowledge management
CEPA is considering ways of positioning itself to be more effective in influencing policy and decision making through research and evidence-based advocacy. Discussions are ongoing on how to collaborate effectively with other NGOs especially within the G-RAP RAO community to

achieve this. CEPA is also reviewing its website to make it more user-friendly. This will involve the introduction of an interactive module where questions and discussions can be held online. This is its knowledge management goal.

- Human resource issues
Discussions are ongoing on improving conditions of service. The first draft has been presented to Council and further research and discussions has been requested.
- Marketing/communication/public relations
CEPA continues to grant interviews to the media as a way of educating the general public on current issues.

CEPA intends to continue with validation workshops on its research findings. These workshops allow for candid discussions on the research activity and reports.

6. Grant and report related issues

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

N/A

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

Issues that are still being discussed including concept papers that have been attached.