

ANNEX 5

Narrative Progress Report

Report period July-Dec 2007

Contract Ref. No. _____
Contact Tel. No. _____

Organisation IDEG
Report Date _____

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Signature & date _____

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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 policies in the last six months have basically focused on continuous implementation of the components of the GPRS II, which seeks to address poverty and create wealth. To this extent Government has focused broadly on human resource development, private sector development and good governance. In the last six months therefore some of the major government policies have been: a) New Charter on Public Sector Reforms; b) the Draft Comprehensive Decentralization Policy; and c) Civic participation in the National Budget Process.

These major foci in government policy are primarily the result of the need to: a) promote more efficient delivery of public goods and services; and b) respond to calls by both civil society and development partners for more inclusion of civil society in public policy making. Further, particularly with regards to decentralization, many public discourses have in the last six months raised concerns about the inability of the country to realise the full potential and maximum results from our decentralisation program. Some of the major issues have been selection of District Assembly members, low citizen interest in district elections and more importantly inadequate platforms for citizen –official engagement at the local level.

Related to the above is the call by CSOs for a more direct influence in the nations' budget. These pressures have compelled government since 2005 to open up the budget process for citizens' input. In 2007 this effort was enhanced when government heeded calls by organisations like IDEG to review the time frame for budget submissions. The process was therefore opened in February and although was officially to end in April, inputs were accepted till much later in the year.

IDEG, contributed to these changes in a number of ways and at various levels.

a) Ghana Speaks Lecture Series

The Institute's Ghana Speaks Lectures continued to promote deliberations and dialogue on key policy issues and also shared policy options with government, development partners and the general public. Some of the topics treated within the period were "*Democratic Governance of Security: Facing Up to Ghana's Fragility*," delivered by Mr. Eboe Hutchful and "*Ghana at 50: Observing African Excellence as Prelude to African Renaissance*," presented by Mr. J.H. Mensah. These lectures encouraged state non-state actor interaction and particularly advocated reforms in the public sector for enhanced service delivery as well as civic participation, accountability and transparency in government operations. Publications on these topics were prepared and finalized.

b) Governance Issues Forum: Policy dialogues and Position Papers

Also during this reporting period, IDEG organised four citizens' dialogues with District Officials under its Governance Issues Forum (GIF) Program. GIF Net members held dialogues with their public officials in the four Northern zone districts, namely Garu Tempane, Bawku West, Bawku Municipality and East Gonja districts, under the theme *Strengthening Civic Participation, Gender Mainstreaming and Public Accountability in Local Governance*. Using the participatory monitoring and evaluation instruments developed earlier in the year, district GIF tracking teams monitored their district priorities and programs from June to October 2007.

Based on their findings from the monitoring exercise, GIFNet members prepared evidence-based position papers with technical guidance from IDEG and shared with public officials during the district dialogues. Among other things, the position papers called for **a)** improved service delivery in the Ghana Education Service particularly as regards the services of teachers and their conditions of service, **b)** periodic Assembly meetings to inform the community of revenues and expenditure in order to enhance transparency and accountability; and **c)** community involvement in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects in their communities in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act. The essence of the dialogues was to enable the GIF Networks (GIFNETs) contribute to the socio-economic and political development of their districts. Toward this end, a working group from one of the district meetings has since reconciled the views of public officials with those of GIFNet members and other citizens and submitted a revised position paper to the relevant committees of the district assemblies as input into the **2008 district budgets**.

c) Growth and Poverty Forum

The Growth and Poverty Forum (GPF), convened by IDEG also helped to advance pro-poor government policies. It is a network of civil society organizations committed to promoting the effective participation of non-state actors in the making of high-level decision and public policy choices in support of pro-poor growth and development in Ghana. The GPF in collaboration with the Canadian Parliamentary Centre-Ghana (CPC-Ghana), met with delegates of the Ethiopian Parliament to share experiences on GPF-Parliament collaboration on the review, monitoring and evaluation of Ghana's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

d) Local Government Network (LOGNET)

To advance the decentralisation policy review process being undertaken by government, IDEG also partnered with platforms such as the Local Government Network (LOGNET), which has throughout the year made input into the review process of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Environment. IDEG also contributed to the drafting of the constitution that regulates the operations of LOGNET particularly as it relates to civil society and more importantly its interaction with Government.

In addition, IDEG participated and contributed substantively to other platforms created by the Local government Ministry, the Institute for Local Government Studies and the Public Agenda (Newspaper) decentralisation forums/workshops.

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?

Not shared by the organisation

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	Policy issue / theme /	Outcome
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	coalition	nature Starting / ongoing / ending	
Government - executive - judiciary - legislature	Parliament	GPRS II	Joint review of Annual progress report of the GPRS II(2005/6)
	Ministry of LOCAL Government Rural Development and environment	Decentralisation Review- in finalisation stage	Civil society input made to review process
Coalition, network	Research network (team members from Univ of Ghana departments, centres and institutes; private sector; among others)	Research papers on: <i>a) Development Partners and Ghana's Economic Policy</i> <i>b) Ghanaian Youth, Development and Democracy</i>	Validation workshops to review and validate findings of draft research reports
		<i>c) Political party, democracy and development in Ghana</i>	Mid term reviews on the status of research
	LOGNET	Decentralization Policy Review process	Review of Network's constitution; inputs into Policy review process
	Growth and Poverty Forum	Citizens' interaction with Parliament Review of GPRS progress report	-Sharing best practices in legislators-citizens' relations -Interface between Ghanaian citizens and Parliament enhanced to engage GPRS II process
	Governance Issues Forum (GIF)	Civic participation in district budget process	-Enhanced state-non-state actor relations -Increased and effective involvement of non-state actors in implementation monitoring at the local level
	RAO, NGO, I-NGO	Kettering Foundation, IBIS, OXFAM,	Post AU summit activities around the continent
Donor institution	G-RAP, ACBF, UNDP, AFRIMAP, IBIS	Work plan activities carried out during the second half of 2007	Support provided helped to realise research, training and interface/advocacy efforts
CBO/DA (please indicate district)	GIFNET, East Gonja, and Garu-Tempene, Bawku Municipality, Bawku West	basic social service delivery	Dialogues held between GIFNET and district public officials

			Consensus built on District priorities
Other	MEDIA: Joy FM; TV3 and other print media	Ghana speaks lectures Interview and talk shows on emergent issues	-Public policy literacy enhanced -Policy issues broadcast nationwide

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

Not shared by the organisation

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?

Not shared by the organisation

6. Grant and report related issues

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

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