

ANNEX 5

Narrative Progress Report

Report period July- December 2007

Contract Ref. No. 01/Core/33/ISODEC

Organisation ISODEC

Contact Tel. No. 021 254918/21, 0208110447

Report Date December 2007

**Report Prepared by Ernest Tay Awoosah
Signature & date**

**Report Approved by Bishop Akolgo
Signature & date**

March 5, 2008

March 5, 2008

70714

1.0 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?

This report outlines the achievements for the period July to December 2007 in the four thematic areas of Organisational development, Economic Justice, Essential Services and Policy Support.

1.1 Significant Economic and Political Development

ISODEC through the budget advocacy work has engaged policy makers in several sectors of the economy on pro-poor government policies. Some of the areas that ISODEC engaged were agriculture, essential services and gender.

1.1.2 Agriculture

Past budget statements indicate that the agriculture sector is the largest contributor to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). But its contribution to GDP has been reducing over the years, from 36 percent in 2005 through 35.4 percent in 2006, to 34.7 percent in 2007. The trend is an indication that the incomes of the majority of our people in the agriculture sector, who are also the poorest of the population, has been declining over the years. It is therefore to be expected for a government that has stated aim to reduce poverty to arrest the decline in the agriculture sector and improving incomes of the poor in the sector, more resources would be directed to support, if not to completely transform the sector. However, the 2008 budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture as a percentage of the total discretionary is only 1.7 percent, way below the AU commitment of 10 percent of GDP to the sector. ISODEC found the situation rather unfortunate, and challenge the government to live up to its pledge and in order to stop paying lip service to the development of agriculture.

1.2.3 Essential Social Services

The International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which Ghana is a signatory, obliges the state to work towards the progressive realisation of the right of the citizens to essential social services, such as education, health, water and shelter. The Millennium Development Goals, again which Ghana subscribes to also commit the state to work towards the attainment of set goals in the areas of basic education enrolment, health and affordable access to potable water. ISODEC requested that through the budget statements these important sectors are given the necessary attention in subsequent budget statement.

1.2.4 Education

ISODEC lauds the efforts by government to expand the School Feeding Programme. In our view, this will ease the cost burden on many poor parents and encourage the children, not only to enrol, but also to remain in school. A major challenge posed by the recent expansion in enrolment however, is that of inadequate and poor state of infrastructure of some schools in the country (especially those in the rural areas). ISODEC therefore call for attention to school infrastructure so as to make the school feeding programme meaningful. Moreover, since 2005 the capitation grant of ¢30,000 has not been increased. The ¢30,000 per pupil in 2005 will only buy ¢24,000 worth of goods in 2007 and at the current rate of inflation, can only buy ¢21,000 in 2008. There is therefore the need to increase the grant to reflect current price levels to ensure value for money in educational expenditure.

1.2.5 Health

There is a lack of adequate medical stocks and equipment, especially essential drugs, in health facilities to respond to primary health care in most of our health facilities. Some lives have been lost in the northern part of the country, during the recent floods, because some health facilities in those areas had run out of various essential drugs. ISODEC called on the government to invest heavily in primary health care to help prevent any such occurrences in the future. Particularly, the government should also ensure that essential drugs are available in all health facilities in the country, particularly through stepping up of its monitoring exercises in the health service.

1.2.6 Water

The budget's performance in the provision of rural water in 2007 was not encouraging as can be seen from the following data:

Item	Target in 2007 Budget	Achievement by November 2007 (%)
Sinking of Boreholes	2,399	283 (11.8%)
Hand dug wells	1,589	63 (3.9%)
Small town pipes	54	30 (57%)
Small community pipes	52	0
Piped water schemes	253	0
Rain catchments system	48	0
Spring protection system	2	0

This situation is very worrying given the importance of water to our health and the country's commitment of achieving the MDG of reducing by half the number of persons without access to safe drinking water by 2015. Indeed, the high level of guinea worm infestation in the country calls for greater commitment to the provision of affordable potable water, especially to rural communities. ISODEC appeal to government to do something about the situation

1.2.7 Housing

Information from the Ghana Living Standards Survey points to very low investment in buildings in rural areas. This could be greatly attributed to the level of poverty in these areas given that the majority of citizens are engaged in agriculture and the government's commitment to that sector has been decreasing over the years. Low investment in housing infrastructure was evident by the massive collapse of buildings in the recent floods experienced in the northern part of the country. ISODEC was greatly concerned that the 2008 budget does not indicate any allocations for rural housing. There 2008 budget mentioned allocation for affordable housing; however it is obvious from the recent beneficiary list that these are usually meant for the big towns and urban centres such as Nungua, Kpone, Borteiman and Koforidua.

1.2.8 Gender

It is gratifying to read from the 2008 budget that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC) is making progress in its efforts at engendering our budgeting process through the generation of sex-disaggregated data, establishment of core expert groups to facilitate gender training in the Ministry Department and Agencies (MDAs), undertaking cross-sectional gender policy coordination and sensitizing chief directors of MDAs on gender issues. It is also good that the 2008 outlook for MOWAC includes programmes like piloting the gender budgeting approach in three ministries that is Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Rural Development and Environment, as well as the development of a national gender profile. Because of the recognised need to interface gender into all aspect of development, ISODEC called on the government to enhance its support for the ministry in order to enable effective implementation of its projected programme of activities.

1.3 Other significant Developments

1.3.4 Oil find in Ghana

Close to the end of the year a consortium of companies led by Cosmos oil announced the discovery of oil in commercial quantities offshore at cape three points in the western region of Ghana.

This development added more work and urgency to our work on extractives, especially using the publish what you pay campaign to drive the government-led extractives transparency initiative (EITI). Apart from lobbying for others natural resources like forests and marine to be added, we now had the added task of advocating for the addition of oil/gas to the resources to be tracked for transparency, accountability, equity and sustainability.

1.3.5 Signing of the stepping agreement on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs):

The ECOWAS secretariat on behalf of its 15 member states and Mauritania is negotiating the EPAs with the European Union. The deadline for signing the agreement was the 31st December 2007. Though ECOWAS member states called for an extension of the deadline to 2011 to allow them do impact assessments to know which sectors and what livelihoods would be adversely affected by the implementation of the agreement, the EU declined the request. The EU rather manipulated the developing countries within ECOWAS, Ghana, Cote de I'voire and Nigeria with threats of disruption of market access for horticulture products to the EU market, forcing Ghana and Cote de I'voire to sign an interim agreement on merchandise trade, which also commits these two countries to negotiate the 'Singapore issues'. ISODEC together with other civil society organisations has been at the centre of campaigns against the content of the EPAs as anti developmental. ISODEC has participated in lobby meetings on EPAs with Parliamentary Select committees on Trade industry and Tourism, Food Agriculture and Cocoa affairs, and Finance; ISODEC has participated in sensitising and mobilising farmers, producers and other CSOs to protest against the EPAs. We believe ISODEC's role in the campaigns within Ghana and the ECOWAS region has resulted in the delay in signing a comprehensive EPA at the end of December 2007. There is therefore opportunity to further influence the content of the agreement.

1.3.6 African Growth Opportunities Act (AGOA) forum:

The 6th AGOA forum, was for the first time held outside the United States in Accra, Ghana from the 16th-19th July, 2007. The forum brought together delegates from AGOA beneficiary countries and from the United States to deliberate on progress of implementation, challenges of implementation, and to chart the way forward. Part of ISODEC's concern on AGOA is that the Act restricts the use of some products (for example, cotton) that have poverty reduction implications in sub sahara Africa in the production of finished goods for export to the US market. The short term nature of the agreement does not allow for long term planning by businesses. ISODEC participated in the Civil Society forum where civil society concerns were collated and delivered to delegates at the Accra International Conference Centre on the 16th July 2007. Part of the call by civil society was for the extension of the implementation of the Act, which was listened to by the US Government.

1.3.7 9th Ordinary Session of the African Union:

The ninth ordinary session of the Africa Union took place in Accra from the 1st-3rd July 2007. ISODEC was part of a civil society collaboration that organised a civil society Pan African forum on EPAs to raise concern about the state of negotiations on the EPAs and to call on African Leaders to assert Africa's right to development through channels that are favourable to it. A procession that was organised during the period to register concerns by marching to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development, and the Presidential Special Initiative, to deliver a Pan Africa Civil society Declaration was stopped by the Greater Accra Regional Police Command. Protest to the National Police Headquarters, that the Police were infringing on rights of persons to peacefully congregate resulted in the Police High Command issuing a statement that Civil society organisations could apply to it to be permitted to undertake processions. Though the planned procession could not come on, the recognition by the Police that there were not right to prevent citizens from asserting their rights is considered a victory for democracy and development.

This section of the report provides detailed information on achievement of the outcomes for second half of 2007. It also provides highlights on activities conducted.

2.0 Organisational development

Outcome 1.

In each of the focal countries, the capacity of Youth, Women's groups and associations, Faith-based organisations and local authorities would be enhanced to influence and demand economic justice, especially through the framework of the economic, social and cultural rights framework of the United Nations;

2.1 Sub Regional Partners

We launched our regional rights-based advocacy (RBAlII) bringing together the six sub-regional partners from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso. The regional forum is called the West African Rights-based Advocacy Network (WARBAN).

3.0 Essential Services

Outcome 2:

A campaign is catalysed to keep essential services (public goods) out of the discipline of GATs and EPAs and the principal role of the state in providing these goods is restored in, at least, the focal countries in West Africa.

3.1 Education as a Right Campaign

Study on NGO contribution to basic education in Northern Ghana:

Following concerns raised by government officials about lack of information on the actual contribution of NGOs to education, ISODEC, under the auspices of NNED commissioned a study - "An assessment of the role of NGOs in promoting formal basic education in the Northern Region of Ghana". The study sampled 50 NGOs and CBOs, outlining their material and non-material contributions to basic education in the region. A workshop was held on the 21st August 2007 to validate the findings after which the report was finalized. It is expected that the study would not only inform policy makers, CSOs, development partners and other stakeholders about the critical roles being played by NGOs in the education sector but would also help to identify gaps and provide lessons for improvement. It is also expected that government will use such practical demonstrations to work towards achieving real education for all. Finally the information will give a guide to government on how much NGOs put into education. This study was necessitated because in the Annual Education Sector Review meeting of 2006, GES reported that they had no record on the contribution of NGOs.

3.2 Fee-Free Education Campaign (FFEC):

During the reporting period, ISODEC continued its role as convener and chair of the Campaign Management Team. Two major research reports were completed during the period: 'User Fees, Capitation Grant, and the Quest for Free Universal Quality Basic Education in Ghana', and

'Ghana and the Education MDG – stock taking and new directions'. Work on these two projects which are expected to give an added impetus to the education campaign had been on-going for sometime and were concluded during the period under review. The first report has since been published, while the latter is press-ready. ISODEC facilitated the two studies and edited the final reports on behalf of the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition and the Northern Network for Education Development who, jointly own the report.

The two reports will be launched around two key themes: education quality, and efficiency in management in the first quarter of year 2008. The studies are an attempt to bring all networks in education into a bigger group leading to the formation of the grand coalition of essential services, come next year.

3.3 The Ambassador Girls Scholarship Programme (AGSP)

AGSP is an evidence-based advocacy and direct service support programme where needy girls and girls orphaned by HIV/AIDS are supported to be in school through financial and logistic support complimented with mentoring activities

The highlights of the period include:

- Text books, exercise books, bicycles, school supplies, food and school uniform worth ₵617,094,100.00 distributed to 820 scholars.
- Seventy-five (75) new girls interviewed and selected to replace some of the 123 girls who completed JSS.
- All the 31 beneficiary schools in 4 districts visited and scholars' attendance and school performance records checked.
- Data on beneficiaries cleaned and updated.
- 250 questionnaires to self-evaluate programme's implementation administered and analyzed. Final report, detailing findings and recommendations will be filed first quarter of next year.
- 31 facilitators, both female and male selected.
- Fourth year proposal developed, submitted to AGSP and contract signed.
- 123 needy girls who risked dropping out as a result of poverty, forced and early marriage, broken homes assisted to complete basic education with some progressing to secondary level of education.
- 820 girls retained in basic schools across four districts in Northern Ghana
- Over 7000 community members sensitized about the importance of girl-child education and the right of children to quality education
- Awareness among education managers increased about the differential impacts of policies and the need to go beyond general policy pronouncements to target and address the specific needs of vulnerable groups
- Communities' involvement in the management of schools in their communities increased

3.4 Alliance for Change in Education (ACE):

A two-day Steering Committee Meeting was held on 9th and 10th August 2007 with the aim to firming up preparations towards the take-off of a complementary education programme for 6-9 year olds in the Gushegu and Karaga districts of the northern region. The programme is aimed at providing quality primary complementary education to about 4,000 out-of-school children, with a special focus on girls. To

take this programme forward, ISODEC will team up with ACE staff to develop work programme/activities after which the latter would be guided or provided with the necessary orientation for implementation.

3.5 Right to Health Campaign

ARHR

A training workshop on gender and reproductive health rights was organised on 2nd August, 2007 in Tamale for twelve LNGO partners, mainly project officers and coordinators. Participants were taken through gender and reproductive health rights issues most likely to emerge from the target communities.

Specific objectives of the training were:

- To enhance participants understanding of reproductive health rights and gender.
- To enable participants learn more on gender concepts and the appropriate ways to apply them in their day – to day activities while encouraging communities to be sensitive to such gender issues.
- To share experiences

Some gender concepts discussed were: equity, equality, gender mainstreaming and gender sensitivity. These concepts were discussed for LNGOs to be guided by them and to encourage their communities to appreciate gender in their daily activities. On reproductive health rights, participants were led through the broader fundamental Human Rights and reproductive health rights such as right to choice of FP method, right to medical care, number of children etc.

Key issues that emerged and needed serious attention were forced marriage, teenage pregnancy and early marriage. Partners pledged to work hard to minimize these in their communities.

SUCCESS STORY: A partner rescued a 14 years old girl from a force marriage in Saboba District. The matter was reported to the Police and the Culprits arrested.

3.6 Joint Programme Review Of National Response To Hiv /Aids

Pursuant to the implementation of the National Strategic Framework (I) (NSF) document, Ghana developed a second phase of the National strategic framework (II), (2006-2010) which defines priorities for HIV/AIDS activities for the first five years. The NSF II has emphasis on scaling up the HIV services including prevention, treatment, care and support, aiming at Universal Access by 2010. The NSF II is operationalised through Annual Programme of Work (APOW) which are costed and prioritized in annual work plans.

To facilitate effective coordination and learning in the implementation of the national response to HIV and AIDS, a Joint Programme Review (JPR), which is a tool for reviewing progress and improving effectiveness in the national response to HIV/AIDS, was agreed and carried out in July 2007. ISODEC participated in the review process. The process involved series of meetings (about 7) and a field research trip to regional and district capitals across the Country. Kwabena Fio and Akua Asumadu of the ILO were assigned to work In Ashanti with specific reference to places like Kumasi, Obuasi and some few selected districts within the Kumasi and Obuasi Municipality. The mandate of the group was to address issues relating to Mitigation of the economic, Socio-cultural and legal Impacts, treatments, care and support. All the groups reported back to the consultants and after the draft report was discussed at a larger forum for validation,

the report was submitted to the lead consultant for onward transmission to the Ghana AIDS Commission.

3.7 Training of trainers for Peer Educators

This training was held on 3rd August, 2007 to refresh the skills of partners to be able to train their peer health educators, especially the newly enrolled ones. Participants were taken through functions, tools, characteristics etc. of a peer educator. Other issues that came up for discussion included:

- Transparency in dealings with health educators
- Verbal appreciation as a way of motivation whenever the need be
- Organize quarterly meetings with the peer educators.

3.8 Participation in the launch of MDGS Health related Goals in Bongo

ISODEC was instrumental in the organization of the MDG (health) launch in Bongo District and presented a paper, “Addressing Health Outcome Inequalities, the Role of Civil Society”. We also participated in radio discussions in English and Gruni to educate the public on the health MDGs.

The final copy of the health infrastructure audit report was also submitted to ARHP secretariat during the period under review.’ The role of partners now is to pick and follow-up the advocacy issues at the community level with the DHMT while ISODEC and the Alliance lobby policy makers on those that need policy change at the regional and national level. Some of the key issues are:

- Lack of implementation of the policy statement on the opening and functions of the CHP zones.
- The NHIS policy of exemptions of children up to five
- The lack of qualified staff, even when such staff are at the health facilities they are under staffed so community people are not encouraged to attend such facilities.
- The refusal of some women to visit antenatal facility for delivery.

3.9 HIV/AIDS District Review Meeting at the Northern Region Co-ordinating Council.

ISODEC participated in a two day AIDS review meeting for the 18 districts in the region and was chosen as a ‘parent’ of the Gushegu and Karaga Districts, to assist the district draw up their work plans and also assist in any area possible, as well as pay periodic visits to ascertain progress of work in the district.

ISODEC’s concern was the cost implications of the assigned roles since those districts are not part of districts that ISODEC works in. The regional HIV/AIDS focal person encouraged ISODEC to try to work around the challenge.

3.10 Monitoring Visits to Partners

Visits were made to the twelve LNGOs. Objectives of the monitoring were to ascertain progress of work against planned activities, to interact with communities to find out impact of project or whether partners are really present in the communities. The exercise also gives us first hand information on other outcomes of the intervention not captured in partners’ reports.

Some partners made achievements in NHIS by encouraging more people to register as a result of their negotiation with DHIS to allow for flexible payments of premium e.g payment by installment. Communities were also very happy with the services of the attached CHNs and pleaded for their sustainable and continued service delivery.

3.11 A Publication- the Alarming Teenage Pregnancies- in Public Agenda

During the monitoring visits, it was revealed that between January and June 2007, about a hundred teenage pregnancies were recorded in the Bunkpurugu / Yunoo district. An article was published in the Public Agenda to draw the attention of the District authorities, parents and the general public to the issues so as to find a solution to the menace.

3.12 Peer Review Meeting

A peer review meeting was organized for partners. It was meant to take stock of partner's activities for the period. Successes were shared and suggestions made to help address challenges of partners. As part of the two day meeting, partners were taken through the patients' rights charter and the GHS code of ethics. This was to broaden their understanding of the documents to facility their work in the community as well as help community members to know and demand their rights. They were also taken through financial management hints to ensure that sound financial ethics were observed by partners.

The need to confront politicians with pertinent reproductive health issues in each partner district during next year's electioneering campaign was discussed. Partners agreed to pick on key health issues in their communities and districts and build allies to request of them from those seeking their mandate.

3.13 Collaboration with GHS and Others

In response to the floods that affected some parts of the North, committees were formed in both Northern and Upper East Regions. In Northern region, the Ghana Health Service invited ISODEC to serve on the Health and Nutrition sub-committee. A communication sub committee was also formed and ISODEC was again selected to be member. The communication sub committee came out with health information messages that are currently being used/advertised on radio stations with the hope of reducing the health risks associated with the floods. For example, messages that people should filter their drinking water and take care of what they buy from outside to eat. The DHMTs and the regional health service also participated in the peer review meeting and made useful contributions to aid partners carry out their activities in the communities.

ISODEC continues to work and collaborate with others like Population Council; on the day of the launch of the national population day in the Savulegu district on the theme, "the Ghanaian Experience @ 50 with male partnership in maternal health." This was adopted from the global theme of, "Men as partners in maternal health". ISODEC was invited to present a solidarity message. We also collaborate with the regional association of people living with HIV/AIDs. They participate in our activities and have offered to introduce our staff/partners to their members in our working districts for further collaboration.

3.14 Position Paper on Maternal Mortality

ISODEC was tasked to work on a position paper on Maternal Mortality. The first draft of the paper was sent to the Alliance secretariat and the two Zonal NGOs for comments and suggestions .Likewise

ISODEC also had the opportunity to make input to the position papers by CEDEP and CENCOSAD. This allowed for cross fertilization of ideas and a joint ownership of the position papers.

3.15 Training on male involvement in SRH for partners

One of the challenges of reproductive health programmes in the communities is getting men/males to actively participate in reproductive health activities. It was in recognition of this that a one day training workshop was organized for twelve officers of our LNGO partners to equip them with skills and strategies to involve males in the sexual and reproductive health activities in their working areas. The facilitator led participants to discuss some socio-cultural issues that made it difficult for men's involvement. They discussed the why and how to get the men involved, by first looking at men's interest, what the tradition says and what "modern law" says– SRH laws, constitution etc- as well as the long term benefit to the family and the nation at large. General strategies of involving males were role played. It is hoped that with the training more males should be seen to be active in SRH activities in the communities in the coming period.

3.16 Life skills training for Community Health Nurses (CHNs)

The role of the attached community health nurse in the achievement of the Alliance goals cannot be over emphasized. It was in recognition of the important role that they play that a day's workshop on life skills training was organized for them. They were taken through topics such as safe motherhood, Family Planning and Child Development. The topics were carefully chosen because of challenges the CHNs face in the implementation of the project activities. The workshop evaluation results showed that the CHNs saw the topics treated at the workshop as relevant to their day to day assignments. The CHNs requested IT skills as part of their future skill development training.

3.17 Stakeholders Meeting and the Formation of Campaign Coordinating Team (CCT)

Under the SIMAVI project, a stakeholder meeting was held for partners and other key collaborators. The essence of this meeting was to create an understanding of and share knowledge on the state of HIV/AIDS in Northern Ghana. It really brought to light the true state of HIV/AIDs in the region and the plight of people living with AIDs. The collaborators made inputs into the implementation strategies while the media gave wide publicity to the introduction of the project especially in the implementing districts. At the end of the day, partners were better equipped to start the campaign. One of the project's aim is to campaign to make the public, policy makers and service providers appreciate the plight of PLWADS by campaigning for easy access to ART , without any economic or geographical hindrance. In order to realize this objective, a Campaign Coordinating Team (CCT) has been formed to coordinate all activities of the project regarding the campaign. During the period under review the CCT developed guidelines and a work plan for the campaign.

3.18 Water

During the period under review, ISODEC continued its efforts at re-invigorating the campaign to stop the privatization of urban water systems in Ghana. Presently, the systems are under a management contract service, being provided by a consortium of Dutch and South African companies – Aqua Vitens Rand. The introduction of management service contract in Ghana's

urban water reform programme has been the result of five years of intensive and unrelenting campaign that rejected the initial lease arrangement. The management contract is now in its third year. The National Coalition Against Privatisation of Water remains unhappy with the current arrangement but at the same time appears to have lost some momentum. It therefore became necessary for ISODEC to re-assert its leadership of the campaign by providing capacity-building support and political direction to the campaign. Several meetings were held with coalition members to discuss the way forward and to chart a new course. Meanwhile, work continued on a geo-reference data base with maps, of the existing urban water systems. This, when completed will serve as a baseline and help monitor changes, especially in the performance of whichever company or body is charged with the management of Ghana's water, in terms of expansion into un-served areas.

ISODEC took part in a study on Financing Water and Sanitation at the Local Level. The CBA unit participated in a Water Aid commissioned two-week study (8th – 21st July 2007) on the subject in the Upper East region with special focus on the Bongo district. The aim of the study was to increase understanding of the different flows of resources to the sector and how these impact upon WSS service delivery in order to advocate for more effective financing mechanisms adaptable to service delivery at the Metropolitan Municipal and District Assembly level.

3.19 Transparency and Accountability (TAP)

Study on Transparency and Accountability (TAP). Still for the quarter under review, the Brookings Institute commissioned a study on TAP, however with a focus on two sectors of the economy. The study looked at the national policies with regards to education and health sectors and analyzed resource allocations to these sectors as a step towards advocating for improvement in public spending priorities in the country. The 10-day study was conducted in July 2007.

4.0 Economic Justice

Outcome 3:

Civil society is mobilised to demand transparency and accountability from governments, companies involved in extractives industries, especially operationalising the EITI and PWYP campaign.

4.1 Extractive Sector Revenue Transparency and Accountability

The campaign for transparency and accountability in the generation and use of extractive sector revenue continued during the period under review. ISODEC, during the period, facilitated discussions around the development of a social & environmental template for collating and computing the social and environmental costs of mining as there is no such mechanism for determining the cumulative cost of mining to the country, which therefore makes it difficult to determine whether or not Ghana is receiving its fair share of revenue from the exploitation of its mineral resources. A draft template has been developed, and would be subjected to stakeholder review.

Again, ISODEC under a PWYP-Ghana contract developed a set of mining sector revenue tracking tools for community-based tracking of mining revenue flow and utilization. The tools will be used to track the flow of mining sector revenue from the central government to the district assemblies and traditional authority, as well as monitor the application of such revenue, as part of efforts to ensure that extractive sector benefits are applied in a manner that promotes community development and reduces poverty. Subsequent to the development of the tools, ISODEC organized four zonal tools training workshops in Tarkwa, Oboasi, Ofoasi, and Sunyani for the Western, Ashanti, Eastern, and Ahafo zonal chapters of PWYP-Ghana.

A district profiling framework is designed for collecting data on communities and companies in mining in the Ahafo mining area. This will be used for completing the geo-referenced database for supporting CSOs working on extractives.

5.0 Outcome 4:

Citizens in West Africa are mobilized to resist EPAs and work towards trade justice and regional integration as alternatives to free trade and economic globalisation

5.1 Trade Justice Campaign

The Ghana and Livelihoods Coalition (GTLC), which ISODEC is a key member, undertook the following activities. A tomato durbar at Adda in the Greater Accra Region, The national farmers week that comprised a durbar at Tuobodom and a Press Conference in Accra, A mammoth procession in Accra to register protest against the EPAs, a ‘Consume local rice and poultry’ campaign during the 2007 Christmas and New year festive season, a meeting between Upper East Tomato farmers and another between the farmers and the Northern Star Tomato factory located at Pwalugu.

5.2 National Farmers Week:

This national farmers week was the second of the national farmers weeks to be organised by the GTLC. The activity is now an annual affair to be marked in October of every year. The theme for this years celebration, ‘Protective and Supportive Policies: The best way to award Ghanaian farmers’ is targeted on influencing the form that the annual National farmers Day takes where awards that do not influence productivity of the farmer and marketing of their products are given to a few hardworking farmers. The campaign is seeking to influence the award system from a few hand outs to a few farmers to annual protective and supportive policy awards with specific bench marks for their attainment, to benefit majority of farmers in Ghana.

5.3 Global day against EPAs:

The 27th of September every year is considered by civil society as a Global day against the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). This year a joint Press conference with the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Third World Network (TWN) and other groups was organised at the Congress Hall of the TUC to raise fears and concerns on the EPAs. The GTLC on that same day organised a mammoth rally from the forecourt of the TUC to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, PSD and PSI to deliver illustrations depicting the

relationship on the ongoing EPA negotiations as seen by the constituency (largely farmers groups) of the GTLC.

The West African Rights-based Advocacy Network (WARBAN) which is a platform of ISODEC and partners in the west African sub-region, adopted a regional campaign on EPAs. The decision of the WARBAN was to simultaneously tackle the issue of economic partnership agreements in each of the seven countries. A popular campaign strategy was developed and executed by each country between July and September. Each country had its own public events but all had one public one on the 15th of September which was adopted as the day of EPAs. Another important aspect of the campaign was the mandate given to ISODEC and the Centre for public-private co-operation (CPPC) of Nigeria to engage the ECPWAS secretariat with an analysis of the potential losses when countries sign on to EPAs. The WARBAN analysis was well received at the ECOWAS secretariat and we received an invitation to a regional ECOWAS strategy meeting in Abidjan where ECPWAS declared their opposition to EPAs. Our delegation was made up of the member from Burkina Faso and one person from the west African civil society forum (WACSOFF).

5.4 Local rice and chicken for Christmas campaign:

To influence consumption patterns of Ghanaians and also by extension government policy in favour of local rice and chicken, the GTLC organised a Media campaign in November and December 2007. It involved print, electronic and radio. The GTLC also paid for a one-month promotion of local rice on 'MASEM', a TV 3 programme that promotes local entrepreneurship. Reports (GTV and Metro TV) were that demand for local rice during the festive season outstripped supply.

5.5 Sensitisation and mobilisation of Upper East Tomato farmers to engage:

The GTLC secretariat received reports from its members in the Upper East that the common positions of tomato farmers, which had been agreed between them at earlier meetings facilitated by the GTLC was being eroded by the Northern Star Factory in their dealings with the farmers. The GTLC secretariat in reaction organised a meeting in November that brought together all the representatives of tomato farmers in the region to reassess their common positions and strengthen their capacities to act as one in negotiations with the factory. After a successful meeting the group they met with Managers of the factory and representatives of the Food and agriculture Ministry and the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) to discuss and agree on the terms engagement between the factory and the tomato farmers.

6.0 Policy Support

Outcome 5:

A network of activists in budgets, economic justice, debt cancellation and tax justice is built in West Africa to mobilise and build a critical mass of citizens for action to influence these events

6.1 Inputs into 2008 Budget

As reported in the 2007 first half year report, the CBA submitted a written input into the 2008 national budget. After the submission of the input, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) invited unit to make short presentation on the input. During the second half CBA was one of the organizations that made a presentation on the input into 2008 budget.

6.2 Training CSOs on Economic Literacy

6.2.1 Sierra Leone

As mentioned in RBA III, CBA is to provide capacity building for organizations in the sub-regions on economic literacy. During the second half, the CBA trained civil society organizations (CSOs) in Sierra Leone on budget and poverty monitoring. The one week training brought together CSOs (Christian Aid partners) in Sierra Leone to enhance their capacity on budgets. This forms part of the series of training undertaken by CBA to strengthen CSOs in the sub region on budgets and budget. During the training over 30 participants from about 15 civil society organizations took part

6.2.2 Gambia

The need to meet Education for All (EFA) Goals by countries that have signed this framework remains a huge challenge. The question of how the individual governments are handling this in terms of budget allocations to education programs and whether governments have mobilized enough resources to roll out comprehensive EFA plans led to Africa Network on Education for All (ANCEFA) to bring out stakeholders working on budgets and education to a workshop in Gambia. CBA was part of this workshop that shared its experiences in budget analysis and budget tracking in the budget work to bear to enable participant fashion out workable and comprehensive programs toward achieving EFA goals. This activity took place in the second quarter of 2008.

6.3 Press statements on 2008 Budget

As it is being done every year, immediately the budget is read, the CBA quickly goes through the budget and organize a press statement on the budget. The 2008 national budget was read in November 2007 and the CBA subsequently organized press statement on the 2008 Budget bringing out relevant issues relating to debt management, water, education, health, youth policy among others. The guiding principle of the CBA's budget analysis is from the perspective of human rights, equity and social justice.

6.4 Publish What You Pay (PWYP)

Ghana as a country has signed on to the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative and ISODEC has played vital role in Ghana's Publish What You Pay (PWYP) campaign. The CBA was complemented by some key staffs in ISODEC to prepare instruments for the tracking of mineral resources by civil society organizations in Ghana. Meetings were held in Tarkwa, Obuasi, New Abirem, and Sunyani (for those from Kenyasi) with the various groups in the mining communities to come out with instruments to track resources from the extractive sector.

6.5 Research

CBA in the second half of the year embarked upon a study that analyzed educational and health expenditures. This research also proceeded to track the flow of resources to the four districts namely Nadowli, Jaman North, Tamale Metropolis, and Shama Ahanta East Metropolis.

7.0 Outcome 6:

Appropriate tools and methods are available for monitoring poverty and inequality including poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

7.1 Model for Scenario Analysis

Data and a simple model for scenario analysis of the potential losses from EPAs is in progress and we hope to continue next year. The following tools are also being tested:

1. Public expenditure tracking survey for tracking public expenditure
2. Social Audit tool for monitoring companies involved in extractives;
3. Training kits for community monitoring of extractives have been tested in the four mining zones of Ghana.

8.0 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?

Within the period, ISODEC opened a dialogue with the Ministry of Finance aimed at unlocking funding from the UNDP that was blocked by the government because of our stance on the privatisation of urban water.

The minister of finance personally invited the Executive Director of ISODEC to attend the Ministry of Health budget hearing and promised to invite CSOs to subsequent policy and budget hearings.

Within the period we received numerous phone calls to intervene in the urban water crisis. We responded with a series of test of quality of water at vantage points in the city.

9.0 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 finance	Policy/budget hearing	Sat in during min of health budget hearing
	Parliament	Capacity building for parliament	Budget analysis training for the minority in parliament
Coalition, network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alliance for Poverty Eradication (ALPE) ▪ National Campaign Against the Privatization of Water(NCAP) ▪ Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) ▪ Northern Network for Education Development(NNED) ▪ Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights(ARHRs) ▪ Ghana Publish What You Pay Coalition(G- PWYP) ▪ Ghana Trade and Livelihoods Coalitions(GTLC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GPRS 2 and Budget Monitoring ▪ Right to Water (Discussions on the management contract for urban water) ▪ Right to free quality Basic Education ▪ Right to Health ▪ Promoting Transparency and efficient utilisation of extractive sector resources ▪ Trade Justice 	Revamped NCAP now responding to public complaints in urban water AGM held

	Organisation or coalition		Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending	Outcome
RAO, NGO, I-NGO	UNDP, Oxfam Novib, Christian aid, Oxfam Gb, Dutch Embassy		Right Based Advocacy	Strengthening citizens voice and participation in West Africa Improved access and participation to reproductive health rights
Donor institution	Donor discussions with FORD foundation and Revenue Watch International		Funding relations	Funding proposals under discussion
CBO/DA (please indicate district)	TUMAKAVI	Zabzugu-Tatale	Reproductive Health	Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services
Other	PENORUDAS	East Gonja	Reproductive Health	Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services
	EPCC	Saboaba-Chereponi	Reproductive Health	- same-
	CFRHP	West Mamprusi	Reproductive Health, Education	Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services and education
	PRIDE	Bongo	Reproductive Health, Education	-same-
	ZOVFA	Bawku East	Reproductive Health Education	-same-
	PAPADEV	Bole	Reproductive Health	Improved access and participation of women and youth to reproductive health services
	NWHD	Kassena-Nankana	Reproductive Health	-same-
	BILFACU	East Mamprusi	Reproductive Health	-same-
	YARO (JSS)	Tamale Municipal	Reproductive Health	-same-
	IRUDEC	Bolgatanga Municipal	Reproductive Health	-same-
	TIDA	Nanumba	Reproductive Health	-same-
	District Assembly	Asante-Akim-south	Girl child Education	Improved access and participation education
	District Assembly	Sekyere-East	Girl child Education	-same-
	District Assembly	Jama	Girl child Education	-same-
	District Assembly	Ahafo- Ano-North	Girl child Education	-same-
	District Assembly	Kenyasi	Girl child Education and Extractives	Improves access and participation of girls in education Enhance effectiveness and transparency in utilisation of mining revenue

10.0 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*

Outcomes that potentially will contribute to policy and practice changes	Progress: July- December 2007	Beneficiary Target Groups
In each of the focal countries, the capacity of Youth, Women's groups and associations, Faith-based organisations and local authorities would be enhanced to influence and demand economic justice, especially through the framework of the economic, social and cultural rights framework of the United Nations;	West African rights-based Advocacy Network launched	CSOs in Ghana and Led NGOs in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Niger and Sierra Leone
A campaign is catalysed to keep essential services (public goods) out of the discipline of GATs and EPAs and the principal role of the state in providing these goods is restored in, at least, the focal countries in West Africa;	NCAP meetings LNGO monitoring	CSOs in Ghana
Civil society is mobilised to demand transparency and accountability from governments, companies involved in extractives industries, especially operationalising the EITI and PWYP campaign;	Community activists trained on monitoring of companies, revenues and environment	CBOs in Ghana, NGOs in Sierra Leone
Citizens in West Africa are mobilized to resist EPAs and work towards trade justice and regional integration as alternatives to free trade and economic globalisation	Seven country campaign against EPAs Analysis of dangers of EPAs to ECOWAS Participation in ECOWAS meetings	CSOs in the seven countries ECOWAS
A network of activists in budgets, economic justice, debt cancellation and tax justice is built in West Africa to mobilise and build a critical mass of citizens for action to influence these events	Revenue and budget tracking skills training	CSOs in Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra Leone
Appropriate tools and methods are available for monitoring poverty and inequality including poverty reduction strategies and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	PERTs Social Audit tools for extractives	

11.0 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***

There are is no significant change recorded

- ***Strategy / planning / decision making / knowledge management***

There are is no significant change recorded

- ***Human resource issues***

Meeting our required staff strength remains a daunting task due to the fact that most applicants turned down our offer due to our uncompetitive salary scheme. This has put undue pressures of the few staff at post resulting to delays in meeting out obligations to donors.

- ***Marketing / communication / public relations***

12.0 Grant and report related issues

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

No issues for the period

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

No part of the report is confidential. It can be shared without prior consent