

ANNEX 5

Narrative Progress Report

Report period July-December 2007

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Organisation ISSER
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Signature & date _____

Signature & date _____

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 organization make to any of these changes?

For the period under review 1) the extension of the Millennium Challenge Account to 18 more districts and 2) the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Program (LEAP) come to mind.

On the Millennium Challenge Account, 18 additional districts were added to the original five districts. The focus on the modernization of agriculture by making it more businesslike has been a major aspect of the government's pursuit of the private sector as the engine of growth. The MCA has been designed to complement the GPRS by offering an opportunity to transform the lives of 60,000 farmers in 23 districts.

As mentioned earlier, ISSER has been involved directly in the evolution of the MCA interventions and spearheading the design and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation component of the programme. ISSER researchers continued to take part in the analysis of the rates of return on various planned interventions. The Director of ISSER was a member of the Technical Committee at the initial stages that made first proposals for the use of MCA funds. ISSER is still working with Ghana Statistical Service in assembling data for monitoring and impact assessment.

The LEAP is a social grant program which seeks to give some assistance to certain categories of extremely poor households and individuals in Ghana to enable them meet certain basic needs. Three categories of the extremely poor people in Ghana that the LEAP focuses on are:

- persons 65 years and above who are without production capacities
- persons with severe disabilities
- orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs)

The LEAP program became necessary as part of the National Social Protection Strategy, borne out of the PSIA (Poverty and Social Impact Assessment) done for the GPRS1 in 2003. ISSER's Dr. Bortey-Doku Aryeetey designed the program and serves as the lead consultant for it. Another ISSER researcher, Dr. Robert Osei is the consultant for the financial aspect of the program.

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 continues to show awareness of the existence of RAOs and has worked on involving them in some national and international policies over the period under review. First, RAOs were invited by the Government to participate in the development of the last national budget, as well as the final budget approval. Second, the GoG/Parliament is currently working on an NGO bill, which will streamline some of the activities of NGO/RAOs. Against this background, however, some RAOs/NGOs view this attempt by the government to streamline some of their activities with suspicion, thinking that the bill is an attempt to suppress their efforts. Conversely, there is the feeling in some governmental circles that RAOs/NGOs mistrust the government.

More importantly, some RAOs/NGOs have been relentless in the efforts to comment on international trade relations involving the GoG and the international community. For example, the proposed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and African countries has been debated at length by some RAOs. A point in case is the Third World Network's (TWN) comments on several multinational trade agreements, including the EPA. Although Ghana has signed the Light Agreement which enables the country to take advantage of the program while negotiations toward a more appropriate agreement of the EPA continues, it may not be far fetched to say for instance that debates by the TWN and other RAOs have influenced the GoG's decision. During the period under review, ISSER continuously engaged in the debate on the EPA. The most recent SGER for instance has a section on ISSER's position on the EPA.

However, not all RAOs have been very influential, as they continue to be perceived by a section of the general public as not using their resources efficiently for the general good.

ISSER's image, however, continues to soar in the public's eye

3. Collaboration, coalitions and networking

Using the format below, list the most important organizations you collaborated with over the period, under each of the sectors listed below. For each organization, 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	National Development Planning Commission	Preparation of the Long Term Development Plan; on-going	Draft documents are being discussed with different stakeholders
	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	National budget 2008; completed National budget 2007	Memorandum submitted by ISSER. ISSER undertook a mid-year budget review in Sept. '07

	Ministry of Trade, Industry, Private Sector and PSI	National Industrial Policy; on-going	Participation in national consultations
	Land Administration Project	Organisation of Region Land Fora for land reforms; completed;	10 regional consultations facilitated by ISSER
		Organization of National Land Policy and Reform Fora; report writing ongoing	ISSER researchers organized and facilitated the workshop; four ISSER researchers were made discussants
		Organization of International Land Policy and Reform Workshop	ISSER facilitated the workshop; most of the presentations were done by ISSER researchers
	PURC	National consultation on Electric System Planning; ongoing	Participation by ISSER researchers
		Resource Centre for Energy Economics and Regulation; on-going	Collaboration between ISSER researchers and PURC and other energy sector agencies
Coalition, network	GRAP	Second National RAO Conference; completed	ISSER Director and researcher assigned to GRAP participated
		GRAP Engendering process; ongoing	ISSER researchers and staff are participating
RAO, NGO, I-NGO	CDD	Seminars and Workshops; completed	ISSER staff attended 4 seminars
	IDEG	Seminars and Workshops; completed	ISSER staff attended 1 workshop
	IFPRI	Collaboration on	3 ISSER researchers

		econometric model building; on-going	completed draft reports
	Ford Foundation	Study of sexuality in West Africa; on-going	Two ISSER researchers collaborating with researchers in Senegal and Nigeria
	ACBF	Support for Economy of Ghana Network. e-based dialoging and networking; on-going	ISSER researchers manage and coordinate the program
	AERC	Institutional support grant for conference participation and short courses by young researchers; on-going	2 young researchers have attended short courses abroad
	MCC	GLSS5+ research; on-going	ISSER researchers involved in preliminary work on data collection in 9300 households and 1200 FBOs
	Int. Food Policy Research Inst.	International research on risk adjustment in households; ongoing	ISSER researchers involved
Donor institution	World Bank	Country Economic Memorandum; on-going	ISSER researchers were made discussants on three documents
	GTZ	Survey of Energy Demand and Use in the Wood Industry; completed	Research report
	UNDP	National and District Human Development Reports; completed	National Report published and awaiting national launching
	FES	Think-tank on decentralization; on-going	MOU signed for collaboration
	USAID	Co-Sponsorship of	Report writing ongoing

CBO/DA (please indicate district)		international workshop on Land Policy and Reforms; completed	
	IFPRI	Land tenure and land policy reform; completed	20 research reports completed
	DRC	Analysis of income and expenses of DAs; ongoing	Four ISSER researchers and the Director are involved
	Awutu-Efutu Senya DA, Ga West DA, Ashiedu Keteke Sub-Metro Assembly	Studies on international migration; on-going	ISSER researchers are working on four out of nine sub-components; an ISSER researcher is the Deputy Director of the Center for Migration
Other	Various individual and corporate donors	Study areas for graduate work in Development Studies; on-going	27 current graduate dissertations /theses
	University of Njimen/CIDIN, the Netherlands	New Legon Observer (bi-monthly magazine published by the Ghana Society for Development Dialogue); ongoing	One maiden and a second edition published in December 2007
		Evaluation of Goaso and Bolga Catholic Diocese Health Programs; completed	Two ISSER researchers designed and supervised this project as well as supervised one UN/CIDIN Ph.D. candidate.

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 product output**

1. Staff salaries enhanced with bridging support	50%
2. Development costs at library	30%
3. Printing, design and photocopying	50%
4. Advertising publicity and recruitment	50%
5. Publications and training materials	50% (SGER launched in September)

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**

1. There was no change in the organizational structure in the second half of the year.
2. There has been no major change in strategy. Decision-making continues to be very decentralized and participatory with the internal management team.
3. One new researcher, Dr. Charles Ackah, was employed. Eight persons are still outside pursuing Ph.D programs. One PRA commenced Ph.D. training internally (at UG). Seventy senior level officers from across Ghana trained in ISSER's long vacation short courses. Also, ISSER is currently training 27 Masters level students, six of whom are from other countries.
4. The publication of the annual report and a newsletter in the second half of 2007. Also the SGER 2006 was launched in September 2007.

The main evidence of significant progress at ISSER remains the number of publications (20), and the number of regular and development seminars delivered (29). Among others, the following ISSER publications were completed over the period:

1. The Politics of Land Tenure Reform in Ghana
2. Customary and Statutory Land Tenure and Land Policy in Ghana
3. The Organization of Land Markets and Production in Ghana
4. Land Tenure, Land Use and Environment in Ghana
5. Legal And Institutional Issues in Land Policy Reform in Ghana
6. Migrant Remittances and Household Welfare in Times of Macro-Volatility: The Case of Ghana.

6. Grant and report related issues

None