

ANNEX 5

Narrative Progress Report

Report period Jan. 2008 – June 2008

Contract Ref. No. 01/CORE/10/CDD

Organisation Ghana Center for Democratic Development

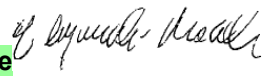
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Report Date Sept. 11, 2008

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Signature & date  Sept. 11, 2008

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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 GPRS II and President Special Initiative projects continued to be geared towards the rural sectors of the country. These programs have been specially designed to assist in stabilising and expanding the rural economy, which produces a greater percentage of agricultural produce both for local consumption and exports. However, the Government has given a lifeline for the Ayensu Starch factory following its near collapse. The company's operation was reportedly halted because of a misunderstanding that arose between the management of the company and the farmers over the purchase price of cassava. The programs have been made possible with multiple donor budget support. Research and advocacy NGOs have also contributed to increasing attention paid by government to pro-poor programs and policy formulation, design, and implementation, as well as programs for marginalized people, through significant pressure and sustained engagement. Some donors specifically require the inclusion of pro-poor policies in government programs that are donor driven. The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) program, which has taken off, is a typical example of a pro-poor program where NGOs have provided inputs, and which targets increased productivity for poverty reduction.

The Ghana government around July 2007 initiated the processes for designing a National Social Protection Strategy captioned Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), which is based on the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy II (GPRS II) of the country. The Social Welfare Department is the implementing agency with the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment coordinating. A 5-year pilot of the programme, which involves cash transfers of between GH¢8.00 to GH¢15.00 per month to about 160,000 beneficiaries living in extreme poverty, notably orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly above 65 years old and the disabled persons in selected districts commenced in March, 2008. The selection of recipients is done on the basis of geographical targeting, verification of the list of beneficiaries by the community, ranking of likely recipients with indicators previously selected and latter submission of the list of the recipients to the community. However, the beneficiary families are expected to enroll and keep all school-age children in school; register all members of the family in the national health insurance scheme; register newly-born children (0-18 months-old) at the registry of births and deaths, take them to post-natal clinics and enroll them in the expanded immunization programme; and protect all children in the family from child trafficking and any of the worst forms of child labour.

In June, the government having received a grant of £42.5 million from the British Government introduced another pro-poor policy that offered Nation wide free maternal health care in government hospitals across the country. Under the policy, ante-natal, delivery and post-natal care expenses of women will all be covered. To realize the expected results, the policy has been integrated fully into the National Health Insurance Scheme.

These pro poor policies are aimed cushioning and providing the poorest poor with some sort of livelihood opportunities similar to pursued by small business financing schemes as well as reducing maternal mortality ratio. In fact, these policies fit well into the nation's poverty reduction strategy and the 2015 projected Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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?

GoG and RAOs relationship on the surface appear genuine and progressive. However, there is still a persistent mistrust and unease on both sides. GoG is uncertain about RAOs role in governance and wary of their power. RAOs on the other hand are occasionally reminded of the kind of resentment that still pertains in official corridors and remain quite suspicious of the integrity of GoG to protect civic space and effective participation. A prime example of this unease is the surprisingly unprogressive drafts of the NGO/Trust Bill and the ongoing protracted negotiations with the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment that has the potential of straining GoG-CSO relationships. It is however worth noting that along the same horizontal spectrum of governmental relationship differences exist. State agencies like NDPC as well as CHRAJ and SFO, EC, National Identification Authority, Parliament, Audit Service and the Judiciary have had a favourable opinion of the Center's programs and programs of other RAOs, stemming mainly from the quality of the Center's technical contribution to deliberations and policy making (examples include the Disability Act and the Domestic Violence Act).

The public generally has a favourable opinion of RAOs because they consider the RAOs as watchdogs through which the ideals of good governance and democracy can be realized. The Center, for example, is frequently asked by the media to comment on various governance issues, and members of staff appear on many public affairs focused radio and television programs. Listeners, viewers and contributors to such programs have largely expressed their appreciation for the explanations, insights and information provided by RAO representatives.

The growing and significant involvement of some RAOs in the formulation, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government-initiated programs such as the MCA, GRPS, APRM, the national identification system etc is recognition of the credibility and utility of RAOs/CSOs/CBOs. It also confers some level of legitimacy to RAOs/NGOs/CBOs. However, the public suspicions of weak accountability and transparency systems operated by some RAOs remain. Occasionally, such issues impact poorly on the public image of RAOs.

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 - legislature - Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parliament ▪ Audit Service of Ghana ▪ Ghana AIDS Commission ▪ Ghana Police Service ▪ Ghana Prison Service ▪ Judicial Service 	Work is still ongoing under the project <i>Strengthening Parliamentary Processes in Ghana</i> . The program, however, has three more activities to complete.	Through the program a new important office has been established by Parliament, i.e. the Legislative Drafting Office to provide drafting support to MPs and the Parliament. In addition, it expected that the Parliamentary Library would have its own web page on the Parliamentary website and the Hansard Department would have produced its first set of electronic copies of the hansard at the close of the project. This has already benefited the parliamentary departments like the Research and Public Affairs.

	Organisation or coalition	Policy issue / theme / nature Starting / ongoing / ending	Outcome
		<p>The Center collaborated with the Audit Service through the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) to conduct two baseline surveys on the asset declaration regime in Ghana and coordination between anti-corruption agencies. The Center was requested further to provide technical support in the preparation of an advice paper including a draft legislative instrument to be forwarded to the AG for submission to Parliament.</p> <p>The Center is collaborating with the Ghana AIDS Commission, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Prisons Service and Judicial Service under a one year pilot to help reduce stigmatization of Persons Living with HIV and AIDS. Particularly most at risk groups.</p>	<p>Both research reports have been submitted to the GII. The LI has now been forwarded to the AG.</p> <p>The Center has completed ownership building meetings with all stakeholders and has established a Program Advisory Team made up of representatives from all the institutions and the Presidential Advisor on HIV and AIDS. The PAT has met twice and approved the project work plan.</p>
Coalition, network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growth and Poverty Forum ▪ Aid Effectiveness Forum ▪ National Consultative Group on the NGO/Trust Bill ▪ Freedom of Information Coalition ▪ Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition 	<p>CDD-Ghana continued to be part of the group that occasionally hold meetings to discuss the extent to which the GPRS II is addressing poverty issues in Ghana.</p> <p>CDD-Ghana has been conducting a research on “<i>Making Aid More Effective: Evidence and Lessons from Civil Society in Ghana</i>”. The research is CDD’s contribution to NGOs/CSOs attempts to provide input into the High Level Forum to review the Paris Declaration. The HLF will be held in Accra. The forum will come to an end in November 2008</p> <p>The Center continues to play a lead role in ensuring the passage of a credible NGO legislation under the umbrella of the NCG hosted by IDEG</p>	<p>Last workshop by GPF was held in Akosombo in December 2007. The Center could not attend but forwarded its position paper to the organizers.</p> <p>The Center’s research work on the MDBS component was presented on April 29, 2008 at a session on the topic: The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the MBDS Process.</p> <p>The NCG is awaiting the next draft of the NGO/Trust Bill for review and commentary.</p>

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		<p>The Center has also been very active in ensuring the passage of a credible Freedom of Information law under the auspices of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.</p> <p>As a member of the Executive Board of GACC, the Center plays a lead role in the executive of GACC's mandate.</p>	<p>The Center has participated in several high level policy engagements with Parliamentarians, representatives from the President's office and the Statutes Law Revision Commissioner charged with conducting consultations with CSOs. In addition the Center has participated in advocacy activities including appearance on radio and TV, marches and workshops.</p> <p>The Center continues to provide technical advice and support to GACC. In particular, the Center supported GACC in the promoting the need for better coordination in implementation of the Whistleblower Act.</p>
RAO, NGO, I-NGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ghana Integrity Initiative ▪ Overseas Development Institute (ODI) ▪ Ghana Federation of the Disabled 	<p>The Center is currently collaborating actively with Ghana Integrity Initiative to conduct programs in <i>"Reforming the Assets Declaration Regime"</i> and <i>"Information Flow Among Accountability and Anti-Corruption Institutions"</i>.</p> <p>The center is currently collaborating with ODI to conduct a research on the theme <i>"Power, Politics and the State – How to Develop Political Institutions that Work for the Poor"</i></p> <p>The Center is collaborating with GFD on the project <i>Promoting and Protecting the Rights of PWDs</i>. This project will end in September 2008 but a follow-up phase is awaiting funding.</p>	<p>Report on both baseline survey completed and submitted. Provided technical support in the drafting an advice paper and an LI to be sent to the AG for onwards submission to Parliament to strengthen the asset declaration regime.</p> <p>A research design workshop has been held in Cape Town, South Africa. The Center has begun working with University of Florida to conduct a baseline survey on the "Changing Citizens-MPs Accountability Relationships". An instrument has been developed and pre tested. Recruitment, training and deployment of research assistants to collect data will begin soon.</p> <p>A few more public educational campaigns were conducted on the Disability Act (Act 715). Further, the Center together with GFD organised a leadership</p>

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			capacity building workshop for the Ghana Association of the Deaf (GNAD). A similar workshop was also organised for the entire GFD leadership at national and regional levels. Series of public educational campaigns has been conducted on the Disability Act (Act 715).
Donor institution	Friedrich Naumann Foundation	The Center conducted negotiations with the FNF leadership on FNF-CDD future partnership on February 19.	One outcome was a reconfigured proposal submitted to FNF for their consideration.
CBO/DA (please indicate district)	New Juaben Municipal Authority	CDD has been collaborating with the Juaben Municipality to conduct the NYEP research project	Collaboration ended in view of the NYEP itself. The sentence seems incomplete.
Other	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice. Electoral Commission of Ghana	Collaborating with CHRAJ to revise its Complaints and Investigations procedure and practice manual, post the Supreme Court decision on the Dr. Richard Anane's Case. Still working on the "Introduction of Non-Custodial Sentencing into the Ghanaian Judicial System". The Center collaborated with the EC to undertake research interrogating the EC as a successful model of governance institutions in Africa under the forum of the Consortium for Development Partners (CDP) and	The draft constitutional instrument on complaints and investigation has been completed and forwarded to the Commissioners of CHRAJ. The program continues to draw support from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, both of whom are part of a working group of actors in the criminal justice system reviewing existing NCS laws that could be immediately implemented. The AG recently announced the implementation of a pilot to hold weekend court sittings and for a rapid assessment of remand cases. These were part of the action plan developed at the Swedru National workshop organised and facilitated by the Center. In response the Judiciary have began holding court sittings at some selected prisons in the country including James Town prison. The Center's research report has been completed and sent to CODESRIA in Senegal who are the CDP managers. The Center is working to publish the report in Ghana.

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		with the support of the Dutch Government.	

4. Outputs on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered

List the outputs as you have presented in the Work plan 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

Fostering Pro-Human Rights Culture – Introduction of Non-Custodial Sentencing to Ghana’s Judicial System. Research on sentencing options is yet to be completed. A five-man working group has been reconvened to determine the administration of NCS within communities in Ghana. On the whole, about 55 percent of work is completed. The target groups are made up of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, Ministry of the Interior, Prison Services, MPs/Assemblymen/women, CHRAJ, Human Right/Law Professionals, academia, CHRI, Legal Aid Scheme, Department of Social Welfare, Judiciary, Ghana Police Service, and Ghana Bar Association. Though the pace of implementation of the National Plan of Action is slow, the AG recently launched a scheme to hold weekend courts and court sittings at prisons to reduce the number of remand cases. These initiatives unfortunately did not go through the multi-stakeholder committee to institutionalize coordination and cooperation as well as sustainability. Notwithstanding that fact, it is a step in the right direction.

Fostering Pro-Human Rights Culture - Together with the GFD, CDD organised a leadership capacity building workshop for the entire leadership of GFD at national and regional levels in Kumasi. Drawing on a needs assessment report commissioned by the Center, GFD leadership were taken through several topics underpinning the challenges of advocacy in 21st century in Ghana. The workshop was also used as an opportunity for the leadership to develop a draft manifesto for engaging the political parties on issues of concern to PWDs in Ghana. . The target groups for this program were the Ghana Federation of the Disabled and other members of disability community. The project is 95% completed.

Democratic Development - Parliamentary Support Program

The Center is supporting the information services of Parliament including the IT Department, Library and the Hansard Department to develop a Library webpage that will help expand access to library resources and to pilot the digitization of the Parliamentary Hansard. Work is still ongoing and expected to be completed on next two months.

Democratic Development - Deepening Economic Liberalism & Decentralization in Ghana

“Effectiveness and Sustainability of the National Youth Employment Program”. This project is a research on the NYEP. The targeted groups are the national, municipal and district administrations, the youth, the media and the general public. Desk research has been completed for the project. Field research was to commence in March 2008. However, this research did not seem attractive to FNF. Accordingly, a concept paper and budget for a liberal lecture was submitted to FNF for approval.

Election Observation/Education – 2008 National Election

The Center has undertaken several activities under its election support program under G-RAP, The Center recruited and trained 60 pre-election observers for the observation and reporting of the pre-election environment. Additionally, the Center has hosted meetings of the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) Advisory Board Meeting to discuss CODEO program and to review monthly CODEO report and validate it. Lastly, the Center organised a colloquium with the Electoral Commission to brief Ghanaians on the state of preparedness towards the 2008 December elections. In collaboration with JOY FM the event was broadcast live. Similarly, a roundtable on the security environment for elections was organised for senior security experts to brief stakeholders on the threats to a violent free and peaceful elections. About 95% of the Center elections support commitments were met. The Center collaborated with several stakeholder during these discussions, they include; CODEO, EC, CSOs working on elections, academia and Development Partners.

Monitoring APRM Implementation/Other APRM Activities

Through the Center’s initiative and collaboration with the National APRM Governing Council (APRM-NGC) and Secretariat, the African Development Bank (AfDB) provided some funding support to the APRM-NGC

for civil society monitoring of the implementation of the the National Programme of Action (NPoA). Furthermore, the APRM Secretariat developed a framework for monitoring the implementation of the NPoA. As a result, APRM-NGC has been able to compile and submit two progress reports on the implementation for 2006 and 2007 to the APR Secretariat in South Africa.

The Center was invited to bid for and undertake some aspects of the monitoring of the implementation of the NPoA. However, we could not accept the offer because the timing was not at all favourable given the work load of the Center at the time.

Afrobarometer

The Center has been coordinating preparatory work for AB Round 4 Surveys scheduled to begin in February 2008. The main results of the Ghana Afrobarometer Round 4 were released and disseminated to various stakeholders. AB/CDD-Ghana continued to document all the media publications so as to check the interpretation and also use them during future journalist outreach sessions. The survey results were widely reported in the Ghana press. Four policy briefs (*Economic Conditions in Ghana, 2008; Popular Attitudes to Democracy in 2008; How Ghanaians Rate the Performance of the NPP Administration; and Popular Opinion on Local Government in Ghana*) were produced and posted on the AB website.

Roundtables/Lectures/Seminars/Conferences

The Fourth Kronti Ne Akwamu annual democracy and governance lecture was held at the British Council Hall on March 27. The Guest Speaker was Dr. K.Y. Amoako, the immediate past Executive Secretary of the UNECA, who spoke on the topic: "The Future of Civil Society in Democratic Governance and Development in Africa." The event was chaired by Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Chief Advisor to the President.

Publications

CDD-Ghana publications during the period January-June were:

- Briefing Paper Volume 8 Number 4: *Ghana's Fourth Republic: Championing African Democratic Renaissance* (E. Gyimah-Boadi)
- FNF/CDD Fourth Annual Liberal Lecture titled: *Liberalism in Ghana Since Independence* (Prof. Yaw Saffu)
- The Popular Versions of the Disability Act (Act 715) in Ga, Ewe, Twi, Dagbani and Hausa.
- The Fourth Kronti Ne Akwamu annual democracy lecture delivered by Dr. K.Y. Amoako titled: *The Future of Civil Society in Democratic Governance and Development in Africa* was processed for printing.
- Briefing Paper Volume 9 Number 1: *The Discovery of Oil in Ghana: Time for a Reality Check* (Kwadwo Mensah) was also processed and printed.
- The 2006 CDD-Ghana Annual Report

Database Development:

Development of a comprehensive database system (DBS) awarded to a consultant was completed in during the period. The database system is intended to be deployed next month to augment the data management capabilities of the Center.

Networking/Collaboration

CDD has developed and sustain civil society collaborations throughout the calendar year. Notable ones are IBIS, WILDAF, GFD, ADD, CEDEP, GFD, DED, FNF, GII, GACC, and FOI-Coalition.

Institutional Capacity Building

Strategic Development Plan and a Business Plan for the Center are near completion.

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 Center has recruited both a Public Affairs Office and a Monitoring and Evaluation officer to support the Center's public communications work and strengthen impact monitoring and evaluation. Three permanent staff members are however expected to leave this calendar year. Recruitment processes have begun to replace these officers.

It is expected that these officers would help organised the Center's communication strategy and implement the same. Similarly the M&E is expected to help develop instruments for measuring impact of the Center's programs and its contribution to democracy and good governance.

The database system when deployed would also support and expand our knowledge management capacity. In addition, the Center is expecting a Change Management specialist to join the staff to begin to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan and Business Plan.

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?

Any part of the report can be shared.